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CONFIDENTIAL.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. ~~6775.~~ (6820.)]

186

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[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. (6820.) 6773.]

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6820.]

No. 1.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 1.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January* 1, 1896.

THE bad news referred to in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 110, 111, 112 has not been reported to Count Goluchowski, but his Excellency is sure that Baron Calice, in pursuance of the formal instructions received by him, will take part in any joint representations on the subject.

Count Goluchowski deplores, that beyond continuing these representations, nothing can be done.

No. 2.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 1.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 1, 1896. 12·5 P.M.

MR. BARNHAM telegraphs from Aleppo to-day that six days ago there was a disturbance at Aintab which was promptly suppressed. On Friday a massacre is reported to have taken place at Ourfa.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 1 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1896.

THE new Turkish Ambassador, Kostaki Pasha, called upon me to-day. Our conversation mainly turned upon the horrible events of which the Turkish Empire has been the scene during the last year. The Ambassador did not deny the massacres and other cruelties which had taken place, but he said that they had been much exaggerated. He, however, deplored them very heartily, but would not admit that the blame of them lay in any degree on the Imperial Government. He insisted that a dangerous and widespread conspiracy has existed among the Armenians, and that he had himself seen the papers which are the proof of it. The object of it was not the improvement of the government of Turkey, but the erection of an autonomous Armenian State, which in the existing distribution of the population was an obvious impossibility. This conspiracy, of which the existence had become known, and which the Imperial Government was forced to repress,

had roused a feeling of bitter resentment on the part of the Mussulman population. The result was a struggle which amounted to a civil war, and it was unhappily matter of common knowledge that in all civil wars, in all ages and countries, the most horrible outrages had frequently been perpetrated. The Sultan was doing his best to bring these disorders to an end. In fact, the massacres, which had distressed the Imperial Government as deeply as they did those who read of them in Europe, had now practically ceased, and the utmost effort would be devoted by the Sultan to restoring security and peace, and bringing into operation those beneficent reforms to which His Majesty had consented. He pressed on his side that some effort might be made to prevent misrepresentation and exaggeration, which characterized many of the descriptions that had been sent to Europe, and which had the effect of inflaming the passions which it was the object of the Sultan's Government to appease.

In reply, I pressed upon his Excellency that, more than the execution of any reforms, it was necessary to restore the security for life and property which had almost disappeared in many parts of the Empire. I said that England in past time had been a close friend of Turkey, and there was not wanting the disposition to renew that friendship again; but that so long as blood was flowing, and the terrible oppressions were continued which the dominant race exercised over the weaker, the indignation of this country would be too strong to allow the people of England to be reconciled to the action of the Turkish Government by any consideration of a political nature.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 2, 1896, 10·30 A.M.*

ZEITOUN. With reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 835 of the 31st December, I have just had a visit from the Foreign Minister, who informed me that the mediation of the Consuls at Aleppo is accepted, and that orders have been sent to suspend hostilities. The authority to send Colonel Chermside as an alternative was of great use in carrying the point.

I paid a long visit to the Porte yesterday, and Mr. Block spent some hours at the Palace, in addition to the joint representation made on the 31st December.

No. 5.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 279 of the 31st December.

Yesterday I made representations at the Palace and Porte respecting the sale of Armenian children at Payas and the massacre at Ourfa, and was informed that Turkish Government would make immediate inquiries.

No. 6.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 2, 1896, 9·45 P.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Jeddah telegraphs to-day that he has heard of the arrival at Mecca of 1,200 men, 66 horsemen, and 600 camels from Ateyba tribe, for expedition against Harb tribe.

No. 7.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 3, 1896, 10 P.M.*

THE Russian Embassy has received a report of a fearful massacre at Biredjik, where the Hamidiehs are said to have perpetrated dreadful horrors.

Mr. Barnham telegraphs from Aleppo that massacre at Ourfa is confirmed, and that Hamidieh attacked the town.

The official account states that 900 were killed, but it is believed that the victims amount to 2,000.

No. 8.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 2, 1896, 9·45 P.M.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs from Mush as follows:—

"The collection of taxes is being conducted in all Christian villages, in spite of their destitution, with the greatest brutality and extortion."

I am making representations to the Porte.

No. 9.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 3, 1896, 11·50 P.M.*

I HAVE received yesterday a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting rumours of a massacre, said to have taken place at Biredjik the day before.

No. 10.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, January 3, 1896.*

IT is the opinion of the Military Attaché that no fresh developments are apprehended by the Russian Government in Asia Minor this winter.

The mobilization of engineers recently reported from Sevastopol was merely one of those experimental mobilizations ordered annually for bodies of troops by Commanders-in-chief of military districts at their discretion.

The restriction on officers' leave in the military district of Odessa has been cancelled, and the soldiers in that district, whose colour-service expired last autumn, have left their corps and passed into reserve.

No. 11.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 3, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1004 of the 26th ultimo, and I approve the action taken by your Excellency, in concert with your French and Russian colleagues, to bring to the immediate attention of the Sultan the unsatisfactory state of affairs as regards the Commission of Control for the Armenian provinces, and the steps which should be taken to place the Commission on a proper footing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 12.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 1, 1896.*

I WROTE this morning to Count Goluchowski a private note, in which I briefly communicated to his Excellency the purport of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 110, 111, and 112 of yesterday's date, respecting the massacre at Ourfa, and the selling of Armenian boys and girls by Circassians in the districts near Aleppo. I should have gone to speak to Count Goluchowski on this subject, but as it is New Year's Day, his Excellency had informed the Diplomatic Body that he would not receive.

He, however, immediately sent me word that he would come to the Embassy in the afternoon; and on his arrival began at once to express the concern with which he had learned from me this distressing intelligence, of which he had not heard from Baron Calice. In answer to my observation, that your Lordship had instructed Sir P. Currie to endeavour to persuade his colleagues to join him in making earnest representations to the Porte, he said that Baron Calice would certainly, in virtue of the formal instructions long ago given him, associate himself with any joint action taken in this matter; and that he had indeed heard to-day from his Excellency that, after a meeting of the Ambassadors, communications had been made by all of them both to the Porte and to the Palace; probably, added Count Goluchowski, very much on account of these fresh horrors.

His Excellency went on to deplore that beyond making these representations the Powers can do nothing for the Armenians, of whom 60,000 may now be computed to have perished by violence; while the rigours of winter, bringing famine, want of shelter and warmth, in fact, destitution in its most appalling shape, might be calculated to destroy 200,000 more before the return of spring.

In presence of this heart-rending prospect, said Count Goluchowski, it is intelligible that numbers of humane people are revolted at the idea that Europe is powerless, and, regardless of consequences, would wish that action should be taken by some, or even by one of the Powers, to put a stop to the extermination of the miserable Armenians. But practical statesmen are bound to consider the situation from another standpoint, and to face the certainty that the conflicting interests, which are only conciliated by the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire as it stands, would at once, if the latter were threatened by coercive measures, be brought into active opposition, with infinitely more calamitous results to humanity at large than even the savageries now being perpetrated on this wretched people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 13.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 4, 1896, 3·45 P.M.*

THE Grand Vizier has, notwithstanding assurances given, sent three battalions from Smyrna to Crete.

The above is with reference to my telegram No. 817 of the 23rd December.

No. 14.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 4, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 973 of the 21st ultimo, and I approve the terms of the note addressed by your Excellency to the Porte, again calling serious attention to the question of satisfaction for the outrage at Jeddah, and pressing for information as to the steps contemplated for the capture and punishment of the offenders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 15.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 4, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1002 of the 24th ultimo, reporting the representations made by you to the Turkish Ministers and to the Sultan's Chief Secretary with a view to obtaining the removal from his post of the Cadi of Mush.

I approve your Excellency's action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 5, 1896, 11 A.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Bagdad referring to my despatch No. 972 to your Lordship of the 19th December:—

"Moussa Bey has been sent to Medina by steamer to-day from Bagdad, under escort."

No. 17.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 5, 1896, 10·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of 13th December No. 928, a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reports that all Mussulmans who were imprisoned in consequence of the disturbance which took place on 16th November have been released. The Turkish population are convinced by this measure that an order for a massacre on that date was suppressed by the Mutessarif. The released Mussulmans threaten to murder Mr. Hampson's servant who gave evidence against them.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul adds that the Turks are divided into two parties, one wishing to massacre the Armenians, the other saying that it is too late.

The Foreign Minister has solemnly promised me on my representing to him the danger of a fresh outbreak at Mush, to send instructions by which the well-disposed Turks and the Mutessarif will have their hands strengthened.

No. 18.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 5, 1896, 11·55 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphed to-day as follows:—

"Edhem Pasha telegraphed to Vali last night that the Zeitounlis had been completely surrounded, at the same time requesting fresh instructions as to the communication to them of our telegram."

The question was referred by the Vali to the Porte, and this evening telegraphic instructions were received to deliver the telegram.

No. 19.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6, 1896.)

(No. 1015.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 27, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting on the condition of Angora, Guzgat, Denek-Maden, and Calidjik.

I am urging the Sublime Porte to give every support to the Vali of Angora in his efforts to maintain order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, December* 21, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that since Wednesday last there has been a general epidemic of fear prevalent among the Armenians in Angora. The events at Cæsarea have produced a deep impression upon them, many having lost relations and friends in the course of the massacre there.

On Thursday morning, several persons called and assured me that the Turks were meditating an attack upon the Armenians before Monday next; that villagers from the surrounding country were gathering in the town with a view to sharing in the plunder; and that, further, certain Mussulmans had asserted that a "musaadé," or licence, for two hours' slaughter and looting, had been secretly issued by the authorities.

After conferring with the French Vice-Consul, who had received similar information and had just made representations to the Vali upon the subject, I called on Tewfik Pasha, and drew his attention to the reports that were circulating in the town. I urged him to cause the soldiery and police to redouble their vigilance during the following few days, and to prevent any influx of peasantry; and I also pointed out that the sale of powder at Koyun-Bazar, which had been prohibited, had again commenced.

The Vali immediately summoned the Major in attendance, and ordered him, in my presence, to at once proceed to the Bazar, and to see that the sale was stopped once for all; and he assured me at the same time that he would place an extra patrol in each of the markets, and would have the whole town carefully guarded.

Yesterday all the Armenian shops in Angora were closed, and the whole available force of troops and gendarmerie were on duty. The latter fact, however, seemed only to add to the general uneasiness. Among other callers at this Consulate a representative of the local branch of the Ottoman Bank, apparently in considerable anxiety, requested to know, in the name of his direction, whether any untoward event was to be apprehended from the fact of the increase in the armed force parading the town. I replied that in consequence of persistent and alarming rumours, both my French colleague and myself had urged the Vali to insure the safety of the Christians; and that the increased vigilance of the troops was the outcome of our representations.

At Yuzgat the Armenians have, for some ten days past, feared to open their shops. A farmer there named Hampartzum has lost eighteen horses, which were stolen from his farm in the neighbourhood by Circassians; and one or two villages are reported to have been pillaged.

Complaints have reached me from Denek-Maden with reference to the hostile attitude of the Kaïmakam and Hakim towards the Armenians of the district. These two officials are said to have openly encouraged the Turks to arm themselves, and, in the event of any disturbance among the Christians, to assist the troops in attacking and exterminating them.

From Calidjik I received information to the effect that, in spite of the praiseworthy efforts of the Kaïmakam of the village, the Turks were very unfriendly in their dealings with the Armenians—so much so, that the latter, the majority of whom are engaged in the corn trade, were afraid to circulate among the different villages with the object of buying and selling wheat. Calidjik, it appears, forms the centre of some seventy hamlets lying at short distances one from the other.

I talked to Tewfik Pasha about the state of things in Yuzgat, Denek-Maden, and Calidjik. After our conversation the Vali wired to the Mutessarif of Yuzgat, ordering him to take every possible measure to insure the safety of the Armenians, and to state whether any villages had suffered. A telegram was received in reply, affirming that everything was quiet both in and outside of Yuzgat.

The Vali further telegraphed to the Kaïmakam of Denek-Maden, warning him to refrain from any partial treatment of any class of the community under his control; and instructions were sent to the Kaïmakam of Calidjik to assemble the Mukhtars of the various villages, and urge them to talk to the leading Turks, and endeavour to bring about a better understanding between Christians and Mussulmans there.

Tewfik Pasha has also signified to the different Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams that the sale and carrying of arms are strictly prohibited. I do not anticipate, however, that this measure will be productive of any great result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 20.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6, 1896.)

(No. 1016.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 31, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1003 of the 24th instant, inclosing a despatch from the Acting Consul at Jeddah urging the importance of commencing any military operations before the arrival of the main body of pilgrims, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I instructed Mr. Block to bring Mr. Alban's recommendations to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

His Highness replied that telegraphic instructions will be at once sent to the Vali of the Hedjaz in the sense desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 21.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6, 1896.)

(No. 1017.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 31, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 827 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of the joint communication made by the Dragomans of the six Embassies at the Porte respecting the proposed mediation of the Powers to arrange terms between the Turkish Government and the Zeitounlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Joint communication to the Sublime Porte by the Dragomans of the Six Embassies, December 28, 1895.

D'APRÈS les nouvelles parvenues aux Ambassadeurs, le bruit qui avait couru ces derniers jours, comme quoi Zeitoun aurait déjà été pris par les troupes Impériales ne s'est pas vérifié. Bien que la caserne se trouve déjà entre les mains des troupes Impériales, les assiégés, paraîtrait-il, sont encore à même de se défendre pendant longtemps.

Vu les difficultés du terrain et les rigueurs de la saison, il est à prévoir que sans capitulation les opérations militaires se prolongeront et exigeront de graves pertes et une grande effusion de sang.

Ceci étant contraire aux intentions de la Sublime Porte elle-même, exprimées tant de fois par votre Excellence à nos chefs, les Ambassadeurs qui avaient déjà

antérieurement reçu des instructions de la part de leurs Gouvernements, sont convenus d'offrir à la Sublime Porte leurs bons offices à l'effet de faciliter la capitulation des gens de Zeitoun. Si la Sublime Porte accepte cette offre, les Ambassadeurs chercheront, dans le délai, les moyens de se mettre en rapport avec le Commandant des troupes impériales et les gens de Zeitoun, dans le but indiqué.

Nous sommes chargés par nos chefs de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien leur faire parvenir, le plus tôt possible la décision que la Sublime Porte aura prise à ce sujet.

No. 22.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6, 1896.)

(No. 1019.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 31, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the following official appointments appeared in the Turkish newspapers of the 27th instant:—

Raif Pasha, ex-Director of Customs, to be Vali of Aleppo.

Hassan Fehmi Pasha, who was appointed Vali of Aleppo a few days ago, to be Director of Customs.

Eumer Bey, member of the Bitlis Commission, who on the dismissal of Tahsin Pasha, Vali of Bitlis, in January of this year, was provisionally appointed in his place, is confirmed in his post, and raised to the rank of "Bala."

Shefik Bey, Translator at the Palace, has been appointed Imperial Commissary of the Public Debt in the place of Mourad Bey, who has fled the country.

Edhem Effendi, ex-Mutessarif of Hodeidah, to be Mutessarif of Hekkiari. Edhem Effendi is a man of some ability, and is distinguished for his knowledge of international law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 23.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6, 1896.)

(No. 1020.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 955 of the 16th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting further details of the disturbances at Cæsarea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, December* 24, 1895.

IN continuation of my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the 12th instant, reporting upon the recent disturbances at Cæsarea, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency such further details of the affair as have been brought to my knowledge, and which I have every reason to believe correct.

One of my informants is an American gentleman, resident in that town, in the truth and impartiality of whose evidence I have complete confidence. He assures me that for many months past he has been in daily contact with both Armenians and Turks, and that whilst the former have been straining every effort to avoid giving offence to the Government and to the Mussulmans in general, the Turks have been longing for an excuse for an attack, and have tried hard to create one; and that during the massacre, certain incidents of which he witnessed in person, he saw one soldier carrying off plunder, and another

struggling with an Armenian woman; a sentry placed at his door demanded compensation for being prevented from participating in the spoil; and a trooper whom he begged to assist some neighbours, whose house was being sacked, refused to interfere, stating that there was "musaadé" or licence for four hours' pillage.

On Saturday, the 30th ultimo, a crowd of men, women, and children rushed into the yard of the Cæsarea Government House, shouting, "The Christians are killing the Mussulmans; help for Islam!" At the same time, masses of Turks from the various quarters of the town rushed on towards the Bazars, killing any Armenian encountered on the way. The Mir-Liva Pasha, who was passing through one of the markets with his escort, did his best by entreaty and gesticulation to stop the onrush, but did not order his men to use their weapons. He seized one man, however, himself, and sent him off, bound, to the prison. The authorities, it appears, would not permit the troops to fire before receiving orders from Constantinople to that effect.

The Mir-Alai is said to have protested against the delay, and to have declared that if he were free to act he would quell the disorder in ten minutes. Another officer complained that when the order to fire was at length given many of his men refused to obey. Soldiers, when asked for assistance, coolly replied that their duty was to protect the Moslems.

The disturbance continued in the remoter parts of the town up till 9 o'clock P.M. The dead are now believed to number not more than 500. Some 500 houses in all were looted, several were burnt, and from fifteen to twenty partially consumed.

On Sunday, the 1st instant, there were attempts to renew the rioting. Early the following morning Imams on foot and on horseback rushed about the streets shouting that the Christians had attacked the Yeni-Jami Mosque, and had fired from their church upon the Moslems.

A great crowd quickly gathered, and pushed on towards the church; they began to dig through the wall of the yard encircling it, but were interrupted by the arrival of an officer with a detachment of troops. He tried to disperse the mob by assuring them that the military would punish the guilty, but, failing to convince them, ordered his soldiers to charge, and promptly scattered them in all directions.

This incident clearly shows, I would submit, that the authorities could easily have quelled the original disturbance had they desired to do so.

Numbers of arrests were made in connection with the affair of the 30th ultimo. A few men have been flogged, but the majority of the prisoners have been let out on bail. A portion of the property plundered has been collected at the Konak, consisting principally in furniture and other bulky objects. Valuables have not been handed over.

There is at the present time great anxiety at Talas, a large village in the vicinity of Cæsarea. I have spoken to the Vali on the subject, and he has sent telegraphic orders to the authorities to do their utmost to prevent an outbreak, and to protect the missionaries residing there.

An Armenian girl, graduate of the American school at Cæsarea, whose mother was murdered during the massacre, was carried off by the Turks. At my request Tewfik Pasha has wired instructions for a search to be made after the girl, and, when found, for her restoration to her friends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 24.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 6, 1896.)

(No. 1021.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1005 of the 24th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further details respecting the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, December* 21, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that during the last few days two more battalions of Redifs, from Tripoli and Lattakia, have reached Damascus, and have been dispatched to the Hauran. One battalion has left Hasbeya for Nablous.

From the information which has reached me with regard to the fighting near Bosrah-el-Harir, it would appear that the Druses of Kourassa and Nejran, villages some three hours distant from Bosrah, on the borders of the Ledja, were repulsed with heavy loss by the six battalions of troops that had advanced from Bosrah, the Druses losing some 200 and the troops five officers and sixty men killed and wounded. The troops occupied the two villages and burnt all that would burn, the buildings being principally of stone and therefore not inflammable. In the night following the combat the troops were returning to Bosrah, and were attacked suddenly by the Druses. A hand to hand conflict ensued, in which the Druses inflicted heavy losses on the Nablous battalion in particular. The Turks admit 200 men killed and wounded. As far as I can learn, no further movement has taken place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 25.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 6, 1896.)

(No. 1022.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 936 of the 15th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, respecting the attitude of the Government towards the Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 16, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, commenting on the attitude of the Government towards the Kurds in that vilayet.

These remarks of Mr. Hallward have been called forth by his reading my above-named despatches, copies of which I had communicated to him at the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Van, December* 11, 1895.

I BEG to thank you for supplying me with copies of your despatches of the 26th ultimo.

While I understand that the impression which obtained here as to Shakir Pasha's responsibility for the doings of the Kurds was erroneous, I hope I may be excused if I

offer a few remarks on the question of the origin of the disturbances which have taken place in these parts in the last month.

In the first place, the idea of Government instigation is by no means confined to the Armenians and their friends; many Kurds have declared that they had distinct orders to plunder the Christian villages, and though their statements cannot be taken as proof of the fact, I do not think that those who know the Kurds of this province believe for a moment that they would be likely to start suddenly on such a general movement against the Christians entirely on their own initiative. They habitually rob the Christian villages, but unless moved by special feelings of hostility or fanaticism, it is not generally their policy to plunder them to such an extent as has been done lately; in fact, they feel that it is contrary to their interests to ruin the Christians entirely, as by so doing they kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, but when their fanaticism and predatory instincts are aroused by those in authority, they are naturally not slow to give vent to such impulses. It may be remembered that at Susun the Kurds were set on first against the Armenians, and it was only when they failed that the Government troops took the matter in hand.

I do not wish to labour the point of Government responsibility, except in so far as it seems to be a matter of some importance for the future tranquillity of this country to decide where the responsibility for these perpetually recurring atrocities is to be. At present, there is a sort of dual control in the Government of these provinces; the Vali is supposed to be primarily responsible for the administration, but behind him is the Mushir at Erzingian, under whose orders are the Hamidié Kurds, the great element of disorder, while a third authority exists, for the moment, in the person of Shakir Pasha. The Hamidiés are scarcely amenable to the authority of the Vali, and take their orders direct from the Mushir. This state of things appears to react on the Kurds in general; even those who are not enrolled as Hamidiés are hardly ever brought to justice, and enjoy the same impunity as those troops. At present, there does not appear to be any security whatever that the Kurds will not recommence their plundering next year precisely as they have done in the past, and, in fact, there is every reason to suppose that they will do so unless serious measures are taken to check them. The simplest way for the Government to disprove their responsibility for the crimes that have been committed is to punish those who are responsible for them. Hitherto, no attempt has been made to bring any of them to justice.

As far as the local authorities are concerned, though the Vali has not succeeded in preventing the Kurds from plundering the villages, the general feeling here is, that it is largely owing to his personal influence that there has hitherto been no massacre or disturbance in the town, especially in view of what has occurred in so many other places.

The Vali is of opinion, and I entirely agree with him, that it is undesirable to increase the military force here. Had the existing force been effectively employed at first against the Kurds, the disorders might have been quelled at the outset. The calling out of the Redifs merely adds another possible element of disorder to those already existing; there are 600 of them under arms at Van and 200 at Bashkale. It is to be hoped that they will soon be dismissed, especially as the financial situation renders their maintenance extremely difficult. Two hundred regular troops have lately arrived from Bitlis, and also Shems-ed-Din Pasha, the Ferik, who was in command there, and who is now I understand to be stationed here. I doubt if their arrival is likely to diminish the feeling of insecurity here, considering that the military are credited with a large share in the massacres at Bitlis. The feeling of insecurity is largely due to the reports of massacre and pillage which every post has brought for the last month, but, should more favourable news come from outside, I should hope that both Armenians and Turks would return to a calmer frame of mind, and that the Vali's influence will suffice to prevent any outbreak in the town.

I ought to mention that Nouri Effendi, the head of police, has been dismissed, a measure which I have often had occasion to represent as extremely desirable; he is a dangerous character, and the town will be well rid of him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 26.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 6, 1896, 10·30 P.M.*

I RECEIVED yesterday the following telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush:—

"In the Sasun and Talori districts the Kurds are again giving great trouble; they say there are fresh orders to massacre, and threaten to exterminate the Armenians. The authorities have withdrawn the soldiers from Sasun. I shall to-morrow see the Mutessarif with reference to the above."

In reply to my urgent representations, Minister for Foreign Affairs has solemnly promised to send necessary instructions.

No. 27.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 6, 1896, 10·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs to-day that a massacre has taken place at Roumkaleh.

No. 28.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 6, 1896, 10·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 648 of the 3rd October, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphed to-day that a massacre had taken place at Jibbeen on the 4th January.

No. 29.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 7.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 7, 1896, 11 A.M.*

I RECEIVED the following telegram yesterday from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo:—

"From details received by post it appears that the massacre at Ourfa continued from the 28th December until the 30th, inclusive. I think that it was precipitated by an attempt to disarm the people, which caused a panic. The Hamidiehs and other marauders joined in after the first outbreak. It was not originally caused by Hamidiehs, but was an attack upon Armenians by Mussulmans. The letter I have received says that two-thirds of the former have been killed, which must be an exaggeration. The official estimate is 900.

"The burial of the dead by the Jews was proceeding on the 1st January, the date of the letter, and the writer, who is a Jew, says it will take a week to finish."

No. 30.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 7.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 7, 1896, 10 A.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush with reference to my telegram No. 13 to your Lordship:—

"The Kaïmakam of Sasun and the Mutessarif of Guendj have received telegraphic instructions from the Mutessarif here to at once restore order. The soldiers he maintains are near enough to preserve order if they wish, and only left Jemalink because of want of provisions.

"As regards the Talori Kurds, I begged the Vali of Bitlis in writing to send strict orders to Guendj."

No. 31.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 7.)

(No. 19. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 7, 1896, 6·30 P.M.*

I LEARN from many sources that Russian Government, in return for the support given to the Sultan, have received permission to have the fortifications at the Dardanelles inspected by Russian Engineer officers with the view of strengthening them. There is a rumour that Aarif Pasha has been authorized to make the necessary arrangements at St. Petersburgh, where he has been sent on a complimentary mission.

No. 32.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 7, 1896.*

I HAVE deferred acting upon your despatch No. 967 by making any representation to the Russian Government, as I was in hopes that before doing so I might be fortified by the information that we had obtained an encouraging answer from the Austrian Government upon the subject. We have received no formal information as to the reply of the Austrian Foreign Minister, but it appears that he adheres to the view he expressed about three weeks ago, when he said that the experience of the intervention of England, France, and Russia showed that the results have only been disastrous for the Armenians, and that any further action would open the whole Eastern question, and "put fire to the powder," which would be a greater catastrophe than any which could result from waiting and seeing whether the Sultan will really carry out his promises, and re-establish order.

I have now forwarded your despatch to Mr. Goschen, with a request that he will urge upon the Prince Lobanoff to give the instructions which the Ambassadors desire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 7, 1896.*

I HAVE to request you to call the attention of Prince Lobanoff to the substance of the despatch No. 967 from Sir Philip Currie, under date the 19th December. The considerations advanced by Sir Philip Currie, which you will present in such language as you may think best fitted to recommend them to the consideration of Prince Lobanoff, are of the very gravest character; and I cannot but feel that the responsibility incumbent upon the Powers of Europe is very great if they do not make some effort to amend the calamitous state of things prevailing in the Turkish Empire. I

need add no more to what he has said, except the observation that our recent experience indicates that pressure on the part of only some of the Powers, if any one is known to be dissentient, has no influence whatever upon the Sultan's counsels. He feels himself safe, and he will not give way. On the other hand, he has not as yet resisted any advice heartily tendered to him by the unanimous voice of the Powers. It is therefore of great importance that the Russian Government, if it can be induced to do so, should instruct M. de Nélidoff to co-operate with his colleagues in their efforts to find a remedy for these evils.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 34.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 8, 1896, 11 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphed yesterday as follows :—

"Reports to-night state that the fighting at Zeitoun continues."

No. 35.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 9, 1896, 12·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphed the following to-day :—

"The massacres at Jibbeen, Roumkaleh, and Beredjik were like that at Ourfa, the victims being Armenians.

"The number of killed in the two last places is in each case 200."

No. 36.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 9, 1896, 12·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphed to-day as follows :—

"Ourfa massacre.

"I have received news from Ourfa by post to the effect that all the Armenian priests were killed and the Bishop wounded; in all, about 3,000 Armenians were killed: 140 wounded were thrust into a well and burnt with petroleum. An Armenian shot a Mussulman who had climbed the church steeple to give the Mussulman call to prayer. The church, with many people, was burnt.

No. 37.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 8, 1896, 11 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Damascus telegraphs that, according to the military authorities, terms have been arranged with the Druses. There has been much bribery.

No. 38.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 10.)

(Secret.)
Sir, *Admiralty, January* 9, 1896.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquess of Salisbury that the following telegram was sent to the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean at Salonica, dated the 9th instant :—

"No. 3. You can return to Malta as soon as convenient, leaving Rear-Admiral Domvile with four battle-ships and a cruiser in the Levant for the present.

"Domvile to proceed to Alexandretta with his squadron."

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

No. 39.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 25. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 10, 1896, 1·30 P.M.

MY telegram No. 19, Secret, of the 7th January.

I learn from a trustworthy source that the Emperor of Russia has received an appeal from the Sultan for protection, and has replied that he would guarantee his safety on condition that the six Anatolian provinces, as far as Trebizond and Diarbekir, should be occupied by Russia for at least ten years, the surplus revenues to be handed over to Turkey, to whom Russia is to give financial assistance, at the same time making a large reduction in the war indemnity. The Sultan is hesitating. Mahmoud Djelaledin, father of the new Ambassador at Paris, who is a well-known Russian Agent, is the chief adviser of the Sultan in the matter.

No. 40.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, January* 10, 1896.

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Wood at Tabriz to the effect that he hears from private sources that 60,000 Russian troops have been concentrated during the last fortnight between Kars and Sarikamish. A second telegram says that this report is confirmed by later news. The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has received a report that there are 30,000 troops between Batoum and Kars with reinforcements between Tiflis and Erivan. The numbers of the reinforcements are not known. Owing to the interruption of the railway and roads, the Consul at Batoum cannot verify these reports.

No. 41.

The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.[*]

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1896, 11·30 P.M.

I HAVE repeated to your Excellency a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople stating that he had learnt, on good authority, that in reply to an appeal for protection from the Sultan, the Emperor of Russia had offered to guarantee his safety on condition of Russia occupying, according to specified terms, the six Armenian provinces of Asia Minor as far as Diarbekir and Trebizond.

You should communicate the substance of Sir P. Currie's telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and inquire of his Excellency whether any such report has reached him.

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[*] Also to Sir F. Lascelles (No. 11), Sir E. Monson (No. 10), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 7).

No. 42.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1896, 11·30 P.M.

I HAVE repeated to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople stating that he had learnt, on good authority, that in reply to an appeal for protection from the Sultan, the Emperor of Russia had offered to guarantee his safety on condition of Russia occupying, according to specified terms, the six Armenian provinces of Asia Minor as far as Diarbekir and Trebizond.

I request you to inquire of Prince Lobanoff whether any such proposal has been made, or is going to be made, to His Imperial Majesty.

No. 43.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 2. Secret.) *Vienna, January* 1, 1896.

My Lord,

IN my preceding despatch of this day's date, I have reported Count Goluchowski's language as to the impotency of Europe to put a stop to the miseries from which the Armenians are suffering. His Excellency made some other observations on this head, which I will now submit to your Lordship confidentially.

With regard to the so-called European concert, he said that we must now all see plainly that, excellent as it is for the maintenance of peace, its excellence is extremely limited, and that the bonds which connect the Powers in their common dealing with the Sultan are so fragile that the slightest strain will rupture them. In spite of this there is nothing to be done but to hold fast to this concert, and it is therefore with great regret that his Excellency has seen that in England not only the pure philanthropists, whose motives are creditable to themselves, but also men of experience in statecraft, whose knowledge of the European situation should forbid the indulgence of irresponsible sentiment, are by their public utterances or writings making the task of Her Majesty's Government in handling this question infinitely more difficult.

Count Goluchowski observed further that he could not for one moment believe that Her Majesty's Government would be likely to contemplate seriously such a reversal of their traditional Conservative policy as to give the slightest encouragement to suggestion that Russia should be invited to occupy the disturbed provinces of Asia Minor for the purposes of pacification. Any such proceeding must inevitably lead, as he has repeatedly argued, to the further disaggregation of the Ottoman Empire, which he confidently presumes cannot really be at present the object of British policy. It is certainly not that of the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin, as his recent conversations with Prince Hohenlohe had served clearly to establish.

As regards Russia, the European concert concerns her less. Her aim has been to persuade the Sultan that she is his best friend, and she has so well succeeded that it appears that M. de Nélidoff has now the ear of His Imperial Majesty to the exclusion of the influence which ought to be possessed by the British Ambassador. It had always been the view of the Emperor's Government—and Count Goluchowski himself holds it strongly—that the dominant Power at Constantinople should be England, and that Turkey should look to England in the first place for protection and advice. The absolute change in the situation by means of which this predominance has passed into Russian hands, constitutes in his opinion a very grave danger. As long, however, as the Armenian Committees in England, supported as they are as well by influential members of the aristocracy and eminent divines as by simple sentimentalists, continue to play into the hands of Russia, by calling upon Her Majesty's Government to embark single-handed in a crusade against the Turks, it will be impossible to allay the suspicions of the Sultan that England has designs and ambitions of her own to gratify at his cost, the accomplishment of which he can only avert by leaning more and more for support upon the Power whose interests are traditionally antagonistic to ours.

My comments upon Count Goluchowski's remarks were to the following effect.

As to the value of the European concert, such as it has now become, I feared that

it was absolutely fictitious, amounting as it does to a recognition on the part of the six Ambassadors that they can only make representations to which the Sultan has discovered that he may safely remain indifferent. For the present, it is possibly as well that the so-called concert, transparent unreality as it is, should be maintained, but it could hardly be a matter of surprise if genuine impatience should be widespread in England at the singular situation in which the Six Powers find themselves.

I agreed, however, with Count Goluchowski that while much might be pardoned to the sentimental and insufficiently informed opinion of a large number of my countrymen, too much caution could not be exercised by men of standing in their criticisms of the result of the combined diplomacy of Europe.

I had no reason, I said, to believe that Her Majesty's Government had ever contemplated such an entirely fresh departure in State policy as to suggest to Russia to take the pacification of Asia Minor into her own hands, or that they had ever given the slightest encouragement to this idea, which, as far as I knew, has only been thrown out by a few ardent journalists, and never, up till now, advocated seriously by any politician, to whose opinion and knowledge of foreign affairs attention need be paid.

With regard to the influence personally exercised by M. de Nélidoff over the Sultan, I had no reason to doubt that Count Goluchowski was correct in the estimate he had made of it. His Imperial Majesty liked to have things made pleasant for him, and British diplomacy does not condescend to artifices and methods which in any way infringe on straightforwardness. It is a pity that our advice to the Sultan, if unpalatable in form, should not be recognized as salutary in matter, and as honestly given in his own best interests.

Although Count Goluchowski did not express any dissent from these views, the impression made upon me by his manner and the general tone of his conversation is that his recent interviews with the German Chancellor have recalled to his mind the misgivings which he entertained in the autumn as to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and which, I am quite convinced, received at that time much of their inspiration from Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 43*.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, January* 11, 1896.

I COMMUNICATED to M. Berthelot the contents of Sir Philip Currie's telegram No. 25, Secret. His Excellency had heard nothing of the matter referred to in this telegram, but he considered the affair to be very serious, and noted the substance of it in writing. Owing to a Council of Ministers, his Excellency was unable to see me sooner.

No. 44.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, January* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 6, I communicated its substance to Baron Blanc this morning.

His Excellency thanked me for the information, which he said he had not received. He added that he was not surprised at the news, and would not be, even were he to learn that the Russians were going to Constantinople.

No. 45.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, January* 11, 1896.

I AM assured by Prince Lobanow that no proposal such as that mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 9 has been made, or is contemplated, and that there is not a word of truth in the report.

No. 46.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, January 11, 1896.*

MILITARY Attaché informs me, with reference to Sir M. Durand's telegram to your Lordship No. 4, that, apart from fortress and purely local troops and staffs, there are now some 80,000 combatant troops in all Caucasus, namely, 25,000 in cis-Caucasia and 55,000 in trans-Caucasia. The usual number of field troops between Kars and Batoum has been some 27,000 combatants for a long time past.

He does not believe that 60,000 Russian troops could be concentrated between Kars and Sarikamish in a fortnight. He attaches no importance to the statement concerning unknown numbers of reinforcements between Erivan and Tiflis. He stated, in his No. 16 of the 31st July, 1894, that the 20th Infantry Division would probably be concentrated near the Turkish frontier.

No. 47.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 6. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January 11, 1896.*

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI tells me, categorically, that no such information as that conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 9 and 10 has been received by him.

In his opinion the occupation by Russia of territory in which the Christian population is less numerous than the Mussulman would most probably not be allowed by the Sultan.

Dangerous results to His Ottoman Majesty would almost certainly ensue at Constantinople if he took such a step.

No. 48.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January 11, 1896.*

I TOOK the opportunity to-day of mentioning to Count Goluchowski the report, as telegraphed to me by your Lordship yesterday (No. 11), of the concentration of a large Russian force in the direction of Kars. I did not, however, state that it was from the Austro-Hungarian Legation at Tehran that the news is in part derived.

His Excellency said that no such report had reached him. The fact that the Black Sea fleet is being held in readiness for employment is the only information he has as to the warlike preparations of Russia.

No. 49.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 8. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January 11, 1896.*

I AM informed by the Italian Ambassador, in the strictest confidence, that a report, apparently emanating from Russian sources, to the effect that your Lordship and Prince Lobanow had been in communication respecting a partition of the Ottoman Empire, has caused his Government much uneasiness.

This report has been stated by my colleague to be absurd, and I have informed him that Count Goluchowski has been assured by me that it is ridiculous.

No. 50.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 11, 1896, 12·15 P.M.*

ARMENIAN relief.

With reference to my telegram No. 24 of the 10th January, Mr. Whettall informs me that Committees for distributing relief have already been established under the supervision of the British Consular officers and the American missionaries at the following fourteen towns: Erzeroum, Trebizond, Van, Bitlis, Kharput, Sivas, Diarbekir, Arabkir, Mardin, Marsovan, Cæsarea, Aleppo, Aintab, Marash.

The money would be apportioned according to the needs of each place. Any funds intrusted to these Committees would be available not only for the towns, but also for the country districts of which they form the centres.

It is estimated that a sum of 50,000*l.* or 60,000*l.* will be required to keep the people from starvation until next April.

No. 51.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 4. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 11, 1896, 1·15 P.M.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 25, Secret, of yesterday, stating that you had learnt on good authority that, in reply to an appeal for protection from the Sultan, the Emperor of Russia had offered to guarantee his safety on condition of Russia occupying, according to specified terms, the six Armenian provinces of Asia Minor as far as Diarbekir and Trebizond.

Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh has been instructed to ask Prince Lobanoff whether any such proposal has been made to the Sultan, or whether it is intended to do so.

Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and Rome, have also been requested to ascertain whether any similar intelligence has reached the Governments to which they are accredited.

No. 52.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, January 11, 1896, 2·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 11, Baron von Marschall, to whom I communicated Sir Philip Currie's telegram No. 25, has no information on the subject. His Excellency said he would make inquiries, and added that in financial circles here a report had been current that Russia was about to make a loan to Turkey. Russia, it was believed, could not advance more than about 5,000,000*l.* herself, and this would only be a drop in the ocean in the present state of Turkish finance.

No. 53.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 11, 1896, 3·10 P.M.*

REPORTED concentration of Russian troops in Kars district: Sir M. Durand's telegram No. 4. In the opinion of Colonel Chermside, this may be only a renewal of the unfounded reports as to the movement of Russian troops which were current a month ago.

No. 54.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 13.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, January 11, 1896.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 11th January, from the Second in Command, Mediterranean Station.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Second in Command, Mediterranean, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, January* 11, 1896, 12·50 P.M.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF Mediterranean sailed for Malta.

No. 55.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 13, 1896, 10·20 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 816 of the 23rd December to your Lordship, I received yesterday the following telegram from Beyrout: "The Commander of the troops in the Hauran has reported to the Vali of Beyrout, by telegram, the seizure of a large number of arms, and the arrest of 57 ringleaders of the Druses."

No. 56.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 15.)

Admiralty, January 13, 1896.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding Her Majesty's ship "Melita," dated 10th ultimo, respecting the state of affairs at Jeddah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Commander Simons to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"*Melita*," *at Jeddah, December* 10, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my last letter of proceedings, I have the honour to report that the same policy of arresting notable Bedouins, to force their relatives to surrender the Vice-Consul's murderers, is being pursued here and at Mecca, and in retaliation the Arabs at Sherm Rabegh, about 80 miles north, have compelled the Turkish military post there to evacuate it, and return to Jeddah.

The Turkish transport "Kyamil Pasha," of the Ottoman Steam Navigation Company, has arrived here with 600 troops, and more are said to be coming to form, with those now in Hedjaz, a military expedition against the Bedouins. Should, however, the Turks have been defeated in the Yemen, as is reported, but not confirmed, it is doubtful if any expedition will start.

The English Consul informs me that the Governor has told him the domestic

slave referred to in my letter of the 25th November will be freed; at present they are searching for his late master, who will, if caught, be tried for slave-dealing.

The Austrian surveying ship "Pola" has again arrived; otherwise there is no change in the ships here.

The health of the ship's company is very good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. A. SIMONS.

No. 57.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, 1896.)

(No. 1023.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 31, 1895.

THE British Vice-Consul at Konieh reports that slight disturbances have occurred at Nijde and Nevcheir. He adds that on the 13th instant serious disturbances occurred at Ak Serai, but that the Vali of Konieh received on the 17th a telegram stating that the movement had been overpowered. Further details are wanting. Some of the Softas of the province have been sent back to their villages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 58.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, 1896.)

(No. 1024.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting that the men of the Mustafiz (Landsturm) have been disbanded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 17, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st ultimo, I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to-day that the men of the Mustafiz (Landsturm) called out last month have been disbanded.

This is due to want of funds, and to their being no special necessity for their services.

Most, if not all, of the Redifs will also be released, as soon as circumstances will permit, for the same reason.

Both Shakir Pasha and Raouf Pasha consider that the expenses incurred in maintaining them are not justified by any danger from Armenian quarters, which was the cause that induced the Government to order their mobilization.

If energetic measures against the Kurds are decided upon in the spring, when the snow disappears, they may be called out again.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 59.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Konieh, giving details of a disturbance in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Keun to Sir P. Currie.

Excellency, *Konieh, December 28, 1895.*

I BEG to confirm my despatch under date 26th instant. Early in the morning of last Friday, the 27th, a Greek shopkeeper informed me that it was rumoured in the bazaars that the Turks would, after their midday prayer, massacre the Christians. A panic set in, and by the time the Turks were at prayer the whole of the bazaar shops, with but very few exceptions, were closed, and the occupants, maddened with fear, sought refuge everywhere and anywhere, some even letting themselves drop from the adjoining terraces in the gardens of the Vice-Consulate.

Notice was also sent to the women in the Turkish baths, and these, mad also with fear, ran out of them half-dressed, some of them seeking refuge in the Hakim's house.

Immediately after the prayer ended I called in a "Hodja," who told me that whilst they were praying somebody called from the door of the mosque, "What are you doing here; don't you know a 'baskin' is being made;" upon which words the zaptiehs and military rose and left, and so did we. Shortly after, passing through the bazaars, we saw all the shops closed, and not a single Christian to be seen. I got frightened, he added, and ran home, and went off to the adjoining hill to see if anything was enacted; perceiving nothing, I went to the Armenian quarter, and everything being quiet there, I ran off to the bazaar, where military officers were inducing the people to reopen their shops.

I then wrote to Mendouh Bey, the functionary appointed by the Vali to deal with the foreign Representatives, but receiving an unsatisfactory answer to the informations I asked, accordingly I addressed myself officially to the Vali, asking him to tell me what were the causes of the panic, and what measures he intended taking to re-establish public security.

Inclosed I have the honour to send you original of his answer, which please return, as I could not get a copy of it. You will remark it is signed by the Defterdar, as the Vali, on pretext of inspecting a road, was absent, and, moreover, had not thought fit to appoint some one to act in his stead.

The Acting Russian Consul had called that we should go and have an interview with the Vali, but this I had to decline, as I am still ordered to keep in-doors.

He went and met at the Konak all the principal functionaries who, on receipt of my letter to the Vali, had assembled to investigate the cause of the panic. After examining some persons who were suspected to be the instigators, they came upon a certain Hadji Faik Effendi.

This Hadji Faik is a Major in the gendarmerie, who, on the demand of Osman Pasha, our Military Commissioner, was dismissed, but appointed to Kulahya, whilst the Vali insisted upon Hadji Faik remaining here, without whose aid he declared he could not guarantee the public security of Konieh.

It is very likely, therefore, that the panic was raised to prove that Hadji Faik was indispensable for the maintenance of order in the town.

Knowing the man, there is no doubt Osman Pasha was perfectly authorized to ask for his removal.

To day perfect tranquillity reigns, but there is no doubt that if the Italian workmen of the railway were in town, as they were on Christmas Day, and armed as they are, a riot would have occurred, and no one can say where it might have ended.

The Vali came back during the night and was very anxious to know if we would telegraph, and was very much pleased when reported that we would not do so.

We had decided not to telegraph when we found ourselves in the presence of a party intrigue.

I will not fail to report if anything occurs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KEUN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

The Vali of Konieh to Vice-Consul Keun.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Konieh, December 15 (27), 1895.*

IN reply to your letter of the 15th (27th) December, just received, I beg to inform you that certain non-Mussulman shopkeepers having at half-past 6 to-day closed their shops, strong measures have been taken by the authorities to prevent any disorder among the townspeople: nothing whatever has happened to disturb the public tranquillity, and the reasons of this event are being investigated with all dispatch.

I avail, &c.
(For the Vali),
(Signed) KEMAL, *Defterdar.*

No. 60.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the outrages committed by brigands and soldiers in the Charshamba district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, December 28, 1895.*

I BEG to inclose herewith copies of letters addressed to our Consular Agent at Samsoun.

They refer, it will be seen, to the Armenian villages of Kaba-Djéviz and Akdjé-Guney, which were recently attacked by brigands and subsequently pillaged by soldiers.

The Vali's version is as follows:—

Two bands of brigands infested the neighbourhood of Charshamba. The one was composed of Armenians under Minasoglou, and the other of Circassians under Kaikdjioglou.

The authorities, it would seem, had the idea of "setting a thief to catch a thief," and they so far succeeded in this as to bring about a fight between the two bandits.

In the encounter the Armenians lost two men, and the Circassians their Chief, as well as two men.

Troops were sent to annihilate both bands while so engaged, but they arrived too late. The soldiers thereupon plundered and ill-treated the villagers until the Mutessarif, hearing of these excesses, dispatched to the scene the Chief of the Gendarmerie, who, it appears, succeeded in restoring order and in recovering the stolen property.

I may here remark in this connection that the Vali has declined to give any particulars of the affair to the other Consuls, who had also received letters on the subject.

As this is not the first time that he refuses them information, they are beginning

to feel annoyed at his sense of indifference to their demands. I thought it well, therefore, to advise his Excellency not to make any distinction between me and my colleagues in so far as the official version of a public event is requested for the information of our respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 61.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 4, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora respecting cattle raiding by Circassians in the Yuzgat Sandjak, and the situation in the Maden Caza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, December* 30, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to information which has reached me from Yuzgat, the Armenians there are in daily dread from the fact of a large number of Circassians having collected in the vicinity of the town; the authorities are said to have been doing their utmost to keep this horde of thieves at bay, who, it appears, when driven off from one side of the town, go round to and menace the other.

The Armenians of the villages lying in the Sandjak of Yuzgat have suffered considerable loss at the hands of the local Circassian settlers. The following instances are reported of robbery and outrage committed by these foreign Mussulmans in the district in question.

About the beginning of November last a band of Gaybounar Circassians attacked and plundered the shops of Koifsizian Ohannes and Pafrasian Alixan, in the village of Terzili. Property of theirs to the value of £ T. 70 or £ T. 80 was carried off.

Armenians whose names are not mentioned, residing in the villages of Ismaïllu, Emirler, and Jeritli, were robbed of both cattle and merchandize also by Circassians at about the same date.

On the 7th November, Gotzakian Kirakos, Chingosian Harotun, and Baltajian Dicran, while returning to Yuzgat from the village of Ouzunlu, were accosted by five Boirazli Circassians at a place called Chakmak Ghediki, who robbed them of their horses, watches, and of about £ T. 20. One of the robbers is named Kefer, son of Ali Bey.

Two Armenians, Cholakian Senakerim, a saddler, and Cantarji Carabet, whilst travelling together through the district of Mejidié, were suddenly attacked by two men at Sel Deresi, near Boyalik; Cholakian was killed by a blow from a cudgel behind the ear, and his companion was beaten nearly to death; they were robbed of everything they had about them. This incident has been reported to me both from Yuzgat and Denek-Maden.

On the 21st November a band of Circassians entered the village of Bebek; broke into and plundered houses and shops belonging to Armenians, and subsequently drove off their cattle. Abdullah Effendi, the officer in command of the troops stationed in the village, refused to interfere or even to leave his house, declaring that he had no authority to use armed force for the villagers' protection.

On the 18th November a flock of 620 mohair goats, the property of Adamian Aram Aga, were seized and driven off by Circassians near Diskla.

On the 24th November some 260 goats belonging to Semerjian and Kafrakjian were stolen from the village of Kediler.

The following day a farmer, called Kasarjian Bedros, lost twenty-five head of cattle, stolen from the village of Kizil Dedi.

Another farmer, Pafrasian Hampartzum, was robbed of eight horses upon the same date, in the village of Arabli.

On the 1st December, seventeen buffaloes belonging to Apkarian Brothers, were driven off by Circassians from Akjian; a shepherd, named Kurd-Oglou, was murdered for attempting to resist the thieves.

The day after sixty sheep, the property of Churgurjian Krikor, were stolen from the Turkoman village of Sarilari.

From Denek-Maden I learn that Christian travellers passing through that district are continually robbed and ill-treated. Three Greeks whilst journeying through the Caza of Kir-Shehr are alleged to have been murdered in different villages. It is further stated that Armenians banished from Constantinople to the interior of Anatolia viâ Angora are invariably robbed at the Karali prison by the officials, and are sent on half naked to Maden. The Armenians in that town are doing their best to feed and clothe these exiles.

I have drawn the attention of the Vali's Assistant to the depredations of the Circassians in the Yuzgat Sandjak, and to the loss they are inflicting upon the Armenian peasantry there.

He professes to be unaware of any such depredations, and has requested me to furnish him with details of cases calling for inquiry and redress. Accordingly, I am preparing a Memorandum setting forth the incidents cited in this despatch, which, subject to the approval of your Excellency, I propose handing to him, with the request that he will make the necessary investigations, and cause a part at least of the stolen cattle and other property to be returned to their owners.

I shall duly report to your Excellency the result of the action taken in this matter by the authorities here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 62.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 4, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, giving details of the recent massacre at Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, December* 18, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the favour of your Excellency's perusal, two letters from members of the American Mission in Aintab on the subject of the recent massacres in that city.

The first, from Dr. Fuller, the President of Aintab College, was written very shortly after the outbreak, and is a general description of what took place.

I think that this report, together with that contained in my despatch of the 28th ultimo, give a fairly complete account of the massacre.

The missionaries, however, make no allusion to the fact that in one or two cases the Armenians defended themselves with bombs.

I believe there is no doubt that bombs were used, and vitriol, but only in one or two instances, and, in any case, the Armenians only acted in self-defence, defending their lives against overwhelming numbers.

The letter from Mr. Sanders is of additional interest, as it reviews the events which led up to the outbreak, and fixes the blame for the massacre upon certain Moslem Notables and officials in Aintab. It also shows how very precarious will be the safety of the Mission in future. The Committee of Investigation, to which he refers, was presided over by the Procureur-Général of Aleppo, who has since returned

here, and I am informed that he has ordered the release of all those prisoners to whom the missionaries allude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Dr. Fidler to Consul Barnham.

Dear Mr. Barnham, *Aintab, November* 23, 1895.

AINTAB has had its baptism of blood and fire, and we sit in grief among ruins. We had been hoping that the many things which seemed to combine for our security would save our city from the fury of the storm which is desolating so many places about us.

Our Christian community is large (about one-fourth of the whole population), and the Christians as a class are exceptionally intelligent and influential; the leading Moslems of the city are intelligent and able men, and have shown themselves to a degree tolerant of and even friendly to the Christians; the Governor has seemed disposed beyond most Turkish officials to respect the rights of Christians; there is a considerable number of foreign residents, sure to be witnesses of any violence done to Christians; the college and hospital have, for years, commanded a powerful influence in the city; the hospital especially has the good-will of all classes. The college and its teachers and students were no doubt regarded by many with much suspicion on account of the latent antagonism inevitably existing between progressive and conservative ideas, but personal relations were, so far as I know, always friendly. Another thing in our favour has been the fact that the Christians of Aintab have given very little countenance to the ultra-revolutionists, who have no doubt provoked trouble in some places. Relying upon all these things, we had for nearly three weeks been hearing reports of fighting and massacre at Zeitoun, Marash, and Orfa and other places, with comparatively little anxiety for ourselves. It is true we were frequently hearing of fearful threats and warnings of what the Moslems were preparing to do in Aintab, but we had got hardened to that sort of thing, and regarded it as largely the invention of cowardly roughs to terrify those whom they did not dare to attack. The most alarming thing in the situation was that the Government was disarming Christians, and at the same time giving out rifles and ammunition to Moslems; this, however, was attributed to an exaggerated fear of a Christian rising, of which they professed to have information.

Meanwhile, Moslems liable to military service were called out and equipped and hurried off towards Zeitoun, where it was reported that the Christians were in rebellion. This was no doubt the occasion of intense irritation, and both the soldiers and their friends were saying, "If we must fight Christians, we will begin with those close at hand." Under these circumstances the native Christians became very anxious, and made such preparations for defence as the circumstances permitted, at the same time, keeping as quiet as possible, and avoiding all controversy and altercation with Moslems. The Government increased the police force in the city, and held a considerable force of troops at the barracks near the town, and the Governor and principal men seemed to be making much effort to quiet the people; several considerable tumults had occurred and been promptly suppressed without bloodshed, so day after day had dragged on, each hour increasing the hope that we should tide over the crisis.

Saturday morning, the 16th November, more than three weeks after the riot at Marash, at about 7 o'clock, as we were just rising from breakfast, our people came in with white faces, saying, "The Day of Judgment has come in the city." We hastened to the door, and sure enough the mob was at work; all the south and west part of the city seemed to be in an uproar, crowds of people rushing in every direction, the roofs covered with excited men, women, and children; the strange mingling of cries of fear, anger, and defiance, with occasional pistol and gun-shots, made up an exhibition of the most frightful tumult and confusion. Already troops were hurrying forward. Soon a company of some sixty soldiers were stationed in front of the girls' seminary with pickets out to cover the approaches to the hospital and college. Dr. Shepard and Mr. Sanders mounted their horses and hastened to the hospital and girls' seminary, where they remained till the rioting ceased.

The college is about half-a-mile west of the girls' seminary and hospital, and

commands a full view of these buildings and of the whole west end of the city, where most of the rioting occurred. What we, who were looking from this point, saw were the narrow streets densely crowded with intensely excited people; now and then a rush was made upon some house or gate, the rally of defenders on the roofs, among whom women were often foremost, using stones, clubs, and sometimes guns and pistols, as best they could.

Sometimes the attack is beaten off and the assailants withdrawn to organize a new assault; sometimes a gate or wall is broken down, and then the noise of conflict subsides and the work of plunder and massacre begins.

Later on, long lines of people moving off to their homes laden with plunder, and, later still, the flame and smoke rising from burning houses.

What was heard was the indescribable roar of the mob pierced by the sharp reports of pistols and guns, with now and then shrieks of agony and fear, and shouts of defiance or command, and over all, most horrible of all, the loud shrill "zullghat" (wedding cry), very like the cry of our northern loons, prolonged and sharpened, raised by Turkish women, crowded on their roofs and cheering on their men to the attack. The massacre and pillage began in the markets, and in those parts of the city where Christian houses surrounded by Moslem neighbours offered easy points of attack. These places having been looted, the mob moved on towards what are known as the Christian quarters of the town; here the resistance became more obstinate; in two of these quarters the old street gates were still in use, by shutting which the district inclosed becomes a small fortified community, capable of making a strong resistance to an unorganized mob. Here at last the assailants were arrested and beaten off.

Under such conditions the storm of mob violence raged on without much abatement till the middle of the afternoon, when the tumult gradually subsided, and night at last brought quiet except in the vicinity of burning houses, where the uproar went on till near midnight.

By morning military arrangements seem to have been made, which gave us hope that order would be maintained; the guard for our Mission premises had been increased, and soldiers posted at intervals around the Christian quarters of the city. Very early in the morning of the 17th crowds of villagers were seen hurrying towards the city from every direction, evidently eager to share the plunder of another day of riot. The soldiers met and turned them back and even beat some of them, and chased them off. They, however, soon returned in increasing numbers, and, being joined by friends from the city, became very turbulent. About noon we saw through our glass an officer, apparently a captain, ride forward into the mob and address them at some length. What he said we could not hear, but immediately, without any show of opposition from any one, the whole crowd came *pêle-mêle* with the soldiers into the city. This was to the south-west corner of the town, and immediately under our eyes. At the same time much the same thing was occurring in the north-west corner. Then, for an hour, chaos was let loose again, and the horrors of the previous day were repeated, only that this time the Christians were prepared, and, being in a strong position, were generally able to beat off their assailants. At one point on the line of defence were a few Moslem houses, and we were delighted to learn that the men heartily and bravely joined in the defence with their neighbours; the gallantry of this act was somewhat marred, however, by the demand which they made the next day for a large sum of money for this service; these men actually demanded and received about 5 dollars a-piece for this neighbourly help.

When it became apparent that the mob could not force their way into the places held by the besieged, the soldiers, perhaps, having received new orders, resumed a show of activity, fired a few shots into the air and drove the mob out of the city, and dispersed them: this is the last serious fighting that has occurred up to the present time, though local tumults have broken out frequently, and several houses have been pillaged and burned, and two Christians, at least, have been shot while being conducted through the streets by soldiers. Strict military rule is now established, and special care is taken to safeguard the lives and property of foreigners. We are kept under very close restrictions, and not allowed to visit the city except for special objects, and then under a strong guard. The amount of damage we can only estimate. As nearly as we can judge, the figures will be about 200 killed (some say 1,000) and 100 wounded, nearly all the Christian shops and 230 houses pillaged and a considerable number of them burned; some 1,000 men who in the first panic took refuge in khans and mosques are still held as prisoners for purposes which we can only surmise.

December 5.—These men still are held as prisoners, and their condition is most

pitiable. Some Christian Notables are also arrested, and Government is demanding arms of the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. FULLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

Mr. Sanders to Consul Barnham.

Sir, *Aintab, December* 11, 1895.

MATTERS look threatening. More massacres are not impossible, as the Moslems try to justify themselves by asserting rebellion on the part of the Armenians.

It is to meet this falsehood that I now write to you.

No doubt the Sasun outrages gave a great impulse to the national feeling here, but not in a Hunchagist sense. Only a few became affiliated to that movement. Arming in self-defence became common, as Moslems at that time were persecuting Christians a great deal; but when after the Courban Bairam the Moslems quieted down, there was no trouble here for four months until Aghassé came. He obtained great success at first, but the Professors of Aintab College and others opposed him vigorously, so that, although when he left he had a following among the young men, absolutely no influential Armenians joined him.

The Moslems in Aintab form two camps. That headed by Sheikh Mohammed Hassan is pro-Christian; that headed by Nouri Bey and the Mufti is anti-Christian. The Aintab military officers—at least the most influential—belong to this party.

The Kaïmakam probably did all he could to prevent the massacre, but he is hated by the Moslems, and is not the man to meet a great emergency such as the situation just before the outbreak, viz., two parties among the Moslems, and the Christians badly frightened. The latter took no steps to rebel against the Government. They armed in self-defence—that and no more. I am ready to stake my life on the correctness of this statement.

We had heard before the outbreak that a Firman had come, but had not been given out by the Government; also that the Mufti and Cadi together issued a Fetwa the evening before the massacre, to the effect that the lives and property of the Christians were lawful prey for the Moslems.

The outbreak began in the wheat market, but spread rapidly to all parts of the city. Moslems had cleavers and heavy knives hidden in their clothes, and began to kill right and left. Eight persons were killed in one house alone. Christians, attacked in their houses, offered some resistance, but except where they defended the ward-gates, they resisted without success.

The conduct of the Aintab troops was most disgraceful. True they did protect our buildings, but apart from that they only killed and plundered.

The Birejdik troops had left that morning, but were recalled and arrived in the evening.

Next day the Birejdik troops behaved splendidly, but the Aintab men very badly. This day many Moslems protected the Christians, and some on the previous day; otherwise the slaughter would have been much greater.

Over 1,000 Christians were kept in confinement, but recently some have been released. Still, about 700 were left in prison.

On the 23rd another outbreak occurred, but was quickly suppressed. One house was looted.

I hear this morning that only 450 remain in prison, but the others were released only on condition of their signing a paper declaring that they will not rebel any more. This is of value, if true, as showing the probable line the Government will take.

The party of Nouri Bey, the Mufti, and the Aintab military officers was too strong for Sheikh Mohammed and the pro-Christian party. Besides this, the evidence goes to prove a wink from Constantinople—if not an actual order—was given.

That the affair was deliberately planned is proved by the fact that when it began the Moslems were all ready with weapons concealed in their clothes, but the Christians who had left their homes were caught unawares, and easily butchered.

Those few Christians who killed a few Moslems in self-defence are, it seems, to be treated as murderers.

Nouri Bey, the Cadi (Rassim Pasha's son), the Mufti, and nearly all the Aintab military officers ought to be hanged.

Sheikh Mohammed Hassan and that set, including our neighbours, Hadji Hussein Agha, and his brother, Ahmed Agha, are worthy of all praise. At a time when any Christian appearing in the streets would be shot, the kindness of Hadji Hussein Agha was such as we can never forget.

Now, a few words about ourselves.

The feeling against us on the part of the Moslem lower orders is very bitter.

Your protégée, Miss Macdonald, is, I suppose, included in this feeling, for officers came and inquired particularly about her.

We are hated, firstly, because of a little demonstration we made when the news came of the signing of the reforms. This was a mistake, but has been greatly exaggerated.

Secondly, our sending messengers to you at the first outbreak greatly angered them.

We are supposed to be connected with the English, which is a great crime just now; and we are suspected of disseminating information. We do give information to the Professors of the College, but chiefly what we glean from the newspapers.

Up to this time we have been protected by the Birejdik troops—and very well protected—but they are now deserting in large numbers. If the troops were withdrawn we would soon be done for.

The Investigating Committee will very likely try to get us involved in some way. We court investigation by any impartial Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. SANDERS.

No. 63.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 7. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 4, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting generally on the state of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, December* 20, 1895.

IN view of the repeated declarations made by the Turkish press that absolute tranquillity reigns in this district, I think it my duty to inform your Excellency that such declarations are not justified by facts.

Travellers arrived to-day from Hama report that dead bodies are frequently seen on the Aleppo road.

Ahmed Bey, a Turkish Bimbashi, passed through Alexandretta a few days ago, and admitted to Mr. Catoni that the most complete anarchy exists in the interior, and expressed the belief that it would require a considerable military force to restore order; that, every day, fresh villages were attacked by flying bands of Kurds, Circassians, and Turkomans, who plunder and burn wherever they pass.

I have received reports from Alexandretta and Aintab that the authorities have resumed the disarmament of the population.

The heads of religious communities have been invited to order their people to deliver their arms to the officers charged with the duty of searching their dwellings, under heavy penalties.

The measure is applied to all Christians, without distinction, and the British Vice-Consul at Alexandretta reports that it has caused much alarm in that town.

If the troops now under arms there and all over this vilayet were men amenable

to discipline this feeling of uneasiness would not exist, but, unfortunately, they are drawn from the same disorderly rabble which did such terrible work at Marash and Aintab.

It has now been ascertained that the Franciscan monks at Yenedjé Kalé, Padre Salvatore, an Italian, and three Spaniards have been murdered. This happened about the same time as the massacre at Marash.

Very little news is to hand with regard to the expedition against Zeitoun, but it appears that the troops have occupied the hills which command the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 64.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting that the agitation amongst Mussulmans of Syria has lately abated considerably, owing to the wise policy of the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, December 26, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the agitation which was prevalent amongst Moslems throughout Syria has lately abated considerably in the Vilayet of Beyrout. This improved state of things is mainly attributable to the unceasing vigilance of the Governor-General, Nessouki Bey. His Excellency has repressed with energy and tact all attempts to disturb the peace of his district, and has succeeded in establishing a marked improvement in the demeanour of Moslems towards Christians, which at one time had assumed a most threatening aspect.

I consider a Turkish official of the character displayed by Nessouki Bey deserving of encouragement, and I therefore beg to bring his name under the favourable notice of your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 65.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Pera, January 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Rev. R. Chambers, a missionary at Bagtchédjik, near Ismidt, pointing out the dangers of disturbances in that district.

I thought it advisable to send Mr. Shipley, Third Dragoman of this Embassy, to ascertain whether there was any serious cause for apprehension, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the report, from which your Lordship will perceive that the district for the present is tranquil, but that danger might arise if any indiscretion were committed, either on the part of the Turkish authorities or of the Armenian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Mr. Chambers to Sir P. Currie.

Your Excellency, *Bagtchédjik (Ismidt), December 19, 1895.*

THE Ismidt region has for some time been quiet, the officials evidently doing their utmost to prevent any serious outbreak. A new danger, however, threatens us now. Large numbers of Kurds, apparently under the patronage of the Military Pasha, have begun to appear. On account of the appearance of the gun-boats before Constantinople, these fellows, losing hope of plunder in the capital, have begun to spread in the new towns. Their presence is a serious menace, and a feeling of terror is spreading among the people. I have great fear for Ismidt and Adabazar.

I implore your Excellency to secure, if at all possible, the dispatch of one of the guard-ships to the Harbour of Ismidt. Its presence there would not only be a perfect protection to the foreign residents, but would also restore confidence among all the Christian inhabitants.

Urgently hoping and praying for your Excellency's kind and urgent attention to this matter, I am, &c.

(Signed) R. CHAMBERS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Mr. Shipley to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Pera, January 3, 1896.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I proceeded to Ismidt on Friday last with a view of visiting Mr. Chambers, a Canadian British subject established in the vicinity of that town, and of ascertaining from that gentleman and from other sources how far the apprehensions he expressed in his letter to your Excellency of the 19th ultimo may have been founded.

I was not long in Ismidt before I discovered that an uneasy feeling was prevalent among the Armenians of that town. A panic had, in fact, occurred in the early morning of the very day of my arrival. The Armenians had closed their shops, and some of them had taken refuge in their churches. Fortunately, however, the authorities had, it appeared, acted with great prudence and circumspection.

The Mutessarif had called the Armenian Bishop and Notables together to a Council, a crier had been sent round to proclaim that everything was quiet; the Military Commandant on his part had sent a strong patrol through the streets, and so little by little confidence had been restored, and at about the time I reached the town things had resumed their normal aspect except that a few shops still remained closed, and I was informed by Mr. Wills, an English gentleman resident in Ismidt, that the bazaar, though it was market-day, was not quite so thronged as usual. The cause of the panic, I subsequently learned, was the search by soldiers of two Armenians for arms. The news of this had spread rapidly, and had given rise to the rumour that a massacre of the Armenians was being contemplated.

The chief fear of the Armenians at Ismidt seems to be of the soldiers, and as to what the conduct of the latter might be in an emergency. Of their Mussulman fellow inhabitants they are, as far as I could ascertain, not afraid, for, in addition to the fact that they, the Armenians, are in the majority, I learned from various sources that they are well armed. What, however, I consider as a more encouraging feature in the situation is, that there seems to be no ill-feeling between them and the Mussulmans, the relations in some instances, I was informed, being even friendly and cordial.

It was also encouraging to find that Armenians, as a whole, spoke well of the present attitude of the Military Commandant, Saadeddin Pasha, who, though evidently of a very arbitrary disposition, kept his soldiers well under control. His attitude, I was informed, had in this respect undergone a remarkable change during the past few weeks, for whereas formerly he had been exceedingly hostile to the Armenian element, he now professed to have the best dispositions towards them. The fact is, I think, worth noting, though I was unable to discover to what cause it is to be attributed.

On the other hand, fears were expressed to me during my stay in Ismidt for the safety of the Armenian villages in the vicinity owing to the numbers of surrounding Georgian, Circassian, and other refugees, many of whom were lawless and desperate. Of the existence, however, of large numbers of Kurds, referred to by Mr. Chambers in his letter to your Excellency, I could find no trace whatever.

Before leaving Ismidt I had a somewhat long interview with Kiazim Bey, the Mutessarif, in which, after a reference to the recent panic, I asked his Excellency whether it was intended to disarm the Armenians of the town generally, as was reported, and I added that if that was the case, the measure ought to be applied to the Mussulmans also. The Mutessarif, in reply, denied that such a measure was in contemplation, but admitted that the minds of the people were unsettled, and stated that he was taking every precaution he could to insure order and prevent disturbance.

On my then bringing to the notice of the Mutessarif the fears that had been expressed for the safety of the Armenian villages in the vicinity of Ismidt, making particular mention of Bagtchédjik (in sight of but distant about an hour and a-half from Ismidt), in which Mr. Chambers, who, I reminded the Mutessarif, was a British subject, was resident, and whom I begged to recommend to his Excellency's immediate care, the latter informed me that he did not believe that danger existed for these villages from the surrounding Mussulmans. The Armenians, he knew, were well armed, and quite able to take care of themselves, and, as regarded Mr. Chambers, I might rest assured that everything would be done to insure his safety. A company of soldiers was stationed at that village, and no fears, therefore, need be entertained on his behalf. The Mutessarif, I may mention, conversed most freely with me on the situation at Constantinople, and made no secret of his conviction that a change was necessary, and that some radical remedy must be found. He expressed to me also his fears of disturbances in the ensuing spring on the Thessalian frontier, adding that as an Epirote Albanian he was well acquainted with the conditions obtaining on the frontier in question.

On Saturday, the 28th ultimo, I proceeded from Ismidt to Bagtchédjik, where I stayed the night with Mr. Chambers as the latter's guest. Contrary to what one would have expected from the tone of his letter above referred to, I found Mr. Chambers in no alarm whatever, either as regarded his own safety or that of his family. He was on good terms with the Captain in command of the company of soldiers stationed there, and did not think that in case of disturbance anything would happen to him or his family.

The situation, nevertheless, Mr. Chambers considered, was a critical one. What he feared above all was that the authorities might be so ill-advised as to attempt to disarm the Armenians, in which case a sanguinary conflict would certainly take place, as the Armenians were desperate, and, in view of the recent events in other parts of Asia Minor, they would not give up their arms to be slaughtered afterwards without means of defence. I was further informed by Mr. Chambers that the Armenians of Bagtchédjik were well able to defend themselves except from a very superior force of soldiers. The population of the place, which numbered some 9,000, all told, consisted solely of Armenians. They were well armed, some of them even having Martinis.

The danger from such an attempt at disarmament was therefore obvious, and Mr. Chambers stated that it had been very imminent under the late Mudir of Bagtchédjik, who was a rash and incapable official, and had actually, Mr. Chambers had every reason to believe, concerted with the Muhadjirs of the neighbouring villages to assemble near Bagtchédjik on a certain signal being given. Fortunately, this man had now been removed, but it was during his term of office that Mr. Chambers had written his letter to your Excellency, fearing that if something were not done a calamity would occur. He thought that if a guard-ship could have been sent, if only for one or two days, it would have had a great effect in quieting the minds of the Armenians, and so relieving the existing tension. Mr. Chambers had no knowledge of any Kurds having penetrated as far as Ada Bazar or Ismidt, and his statement to your Excellency in this respect therefore must have been due to a misapprehension.

There had been, Mr. Chambers informed me, several cases of murder of Armenians by the Turks of the surrounding villages, of which practically no notice had been taken by the authorities. The result of this, Mr. Chambers stated, was that Armenians were now afraid to till their outlying fields, and those of the poorer class who were accustomed to work for their bread in the neighbouring Turkish villages were now afraid to go, and were thus compelled to remain at home without means of

subsistence. If this state of things were not remedied, continued Mr. Chambers, the consequences as regards these men would be very serious indeed.

From Bagtchédjik I proceeded on Sunday, the 29th ultimo, to Ada Bazar, about an hour and a-half by rail beyond Ismidt, the town itself, however, which numbers some 14,000 or 15,000 inhabitants, being situated at about three-quarters of an hour's drive from the railway station.

At Ada Bazar I found nothing which calls for any special notice. The best definition I can give of the situation in that town is that of a leading Armenian inhabitant, who said that the opinion among his fellow-townsmen was that if there was no disturbance at Constantinople there would be none at Ada Bazar. There had, I was informed, been an attempt at a disturbance shortly after the Ak Hissar affair, which, however, was promptly quelled by the Kaïmakam, Mehmet Nusuhi Effendi, who appears, from the accounts I received on all sides, to have acted with rare energy and discretion. I was, unfortunately, not able to have an interview with Mehmet Nusuhi himself as he was absent at Constantinople, but, as far as I could learn, there does not seem to be much fear of a disturbance as long as that official is retained in his post.

The complaint the Armenians chiefly had to make was the same as at Bagtchédjik, viz., that murders of Armenians occurred in outlying districts for which no penalty was exacted by the authorities, and they urged with considerable truth that such conduct was not calculated to decrease the uneasiness just now prevalent among all Armenians. At Ada Bazar, as at Ismidt, the danger of disturbance proceeded, I found, not from the local Mussulman inhabitants, with whom the Armenians stated they were on friendly terms, but from the unruly and lawless Muhadjirs who came into the town on market-days. Before leaving Ada Bazar, which I did on Monday, the 30th ultimo, I paid a visit to the American ladies who are in charge of a girls' school there, and ascertained that they felt no fears for their own personal safety.

The conclusion I have arrived at from my visit to the Ismidt district is that, although the situation is not entirely without cause for anxiety, the Turkish authorities are well able to maintain order if they choose. On the other hand, indications are not wanting that the latter are not too well pleased with the fact that the Armenians, especially those of Bagtchédjik, have arms, and there is the possibility that some ill-advised official might attempt a disarmament, which would without doubt lead to most serious consequences. On that account, therefore, I earnestly begged Mr. Chambers to use what influence he possessed with the Armenians of Bagtchédjik, especially the younger men among them, who appear to be somewhat enterprising and independent, to induce them to carefully abstain from making any display of these arms, and so needlessly irritating the Turks. The statement that the Armenians are meditating an attack upon the Mussulman population is, I believe, a calumny, and has no foundation in fact.

I beg to return to your Excellency herewith Mr. Chambers' letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 66.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January 17.*)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Pera, January 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Foreign Minister a Memorandum, which I have founded on Mr. Hallward's despatch No. 87, inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 1022, of the 31st December, respecting the attitude of the Imperial Government towards the Kurds, and the steps that should be taken to control them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 67.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
Constantinople, January 7, 1896.

My Lord,

SAÏD PASHA, before leaving this Embassy, expressed a wish that the circumstances of his visit should be communicated to the ex-Grand Vizier Kiamil Pasha, of whom he invariably spoke with friendship and regard.

I accordingly sent the correspondence on the subject to Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice at Smyrna, where Kiamil Pasha is now Vali, and desired him to read it privately to his Highness. I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter giving an account of Mr. Fitzmaurice's interview, and of the remarks addressed to him by Kiamil Pasha. The two ex-Grand Viziers appear to have experienced similar treatment at the hands of the Sultan, who could not forgive their attempts to put some restraint on the tyranny exercised through the Palace "camarilla."

It is clear that, if His Majesty had not to a certain extent been restrained by fear, they would both have fared badly.

The confidence shown by both these distinguished men in Her Majesty's Embassy is, I venture to think, a justification of the course we have pursued, and disproves the charge that we have excited the enmity of the Mussulmans by the protection we have given to the Armenians.

If it were not for the Sultan himself, I believe that the confidence of the Turkish nation in the good-will of England would be as strong as ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.)
Smyrna, December 29, 1895.

KIAMIL resides in the "Konak," and is surrounded by spies, a new batch of whom have recently arrived from Constantinople. However, I managed to see him for a couple of hours and fulfilled your mission, giving him all the details of the "Saïd" episode. The poor old man was very pleased and highly interested, and begged me to send his best "salaams" to Sir Philip and yourself. He also asked me to thank Sir Philip for his generous treatment of and kind hospitality towards his old friend "Saïd."

The story of his own treatment is very similar to that of Saïd. He presented a report to the Sultan, insisting on the necessity of concession to England's demands, and pointing out the advisability of delegating some Power to the Porte, thereby mitigating the present highly centralized form of government by Palace intrigue.

The result was that the whole "camarilla" was up in arms against him, and he was denounced as a traitor and an English partisan, was relieved of his functions as Grand Vizier, and ordered to proceed on board the Imperial yacht "Izzedin," and to go to Aleppo, his family to remain behind. He protested that he was very ill, a fact, and begged leave to remain behind. He was at once summoned to the Palace, but refused to go on the plea of ill-health, and only yielded after frequent and incessant visits of Chamberlains, &c. When he went, though still very ill, he was kept there for nine hours, during which every effort was made to induce him to yield, including threats that the Sultan would summon him before a Council of "Ulema" and the "Sheikh-ul-Islam," and that he would have to take the consequences of disobeying the Caliph. He remained firm, saying that if he was to die he preferred to do so in Constantinople in his home than as an exile at Aleppo.

He was finally conveyed back to his house, only to be again persecuted by Imperial emissaries.

He at last consented to go, but begged that he might be allowed to wait till his health was better, that he might travel by an ordinary steamer, that his family should accompany him, that he did not want to be "Vali," that he had no ambition, did not want office, was worn out by and sick of Palace intrigue and persecution, &c. His prayer was refused; then the Embassies intervened, and began to make

inquiries. A night or two afterwards he was awakened by a noise in his room, and on looking out of bed saw two officers standing in the middle of his bed-room. "I thought," said Kiamil, "they were going to make away with me, and asked them what they wanted." They replied that they were military doctors, and going to report on the state of his health. Shortly afterwards he was informed that he must leave Constantinople, but the Sultan would allow him to choose between Koniah, Salonica, and Smyrna. He chose Smyrna.

The remarks on his scandalous treatment in the European press have brought home to the Sultan the real nature of his conduct towards him, and the Sultan had spread reports that he had sent Kiamil a chaplet of pearls and was heaping favours upon him; in reality, Kiamil has not received pearls or favours of any kind, and no provision has as yet been made for his pay and salary.

The foregoing is but a bare outline of his story. The details of the petty persecutions and annoyances to which a man of his [? age] and position was subjected would fill several pages. Kiamil said also that he would absolutely refuse to accept office without assurances that the rule of Palace sycophants and intriguers would be done away with.

No. 68.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 12.)
Constantinople, January 7, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1008 of the 26th December and other correspondence respecting Zeitoun, I have the honour to state that the Ambassadors met again on the 28th December, and, as it appeared that the town still held out, agreed to offer to the Turkish Government the mediation of their Consuls at Aleppo, and, should such mediation be accepted, to press for an armistice. The six Dragomans accordingly went to the Porte the same afternoon, and made the joint communication which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1017 of the 31st December.

The 29th and 30th passed without anything being heard of an answer. On the latter day the Dragomans of the Embassies went to the Porte, and spoke informally of the matter. They were informed that, according to official reports, the Zeitounlis had stated they had no confidence in Turkish officers, and had asked that the Mutessarif of Marash should proceed to Zeitoun to negotiate. He had accordingly started, accompanied by several Notables, but the Porte had no news of the result of his mission.

The Foreign Minister stated, but merely on his personal opinion, that, if this attempt at mediation failed, the Ottoman Government would certainly avail themselves of the proposal of the Powers.

I had, however, reason to apprehend that the Sultan desired to wipe out the Zeitounlis like the inhabitants of Sasun, and that he would decline mediation unless his hand were forced. I also feared that M. de Nélidoff, though he had joined in our proposal, would draw back and refuse to press it seriously unless some means were found to convince him that Her Majesty's Embassy was ready to insist on the acceptance of mediation, and, if necessary, to act alone.

I therefore telegraphed to your Lordship for permission to inform the Ambassadors, in the event of the Porte's consent being refused or delayed beyond the evening of the 30th December, that Her Majesty's Government could not allow the Zeitounlis to perish without making an effort to save them, and that Colonel Chermside would accordingly be dispatched to the Turkish head-quarters before Zeitoun, to do his best with or without the consent of the Porte. Your Lordship granted me the necessary authority by telegraph.

The Ambassadors met on the morning of the 31st December to consider the situation, the Porte, while not refusing our offer of mediation, having given no definite reply. I repeatedly urged that we should insist on the acceptance of our joint proposal, but found it impossible to induce my colleagues to take any vigorous action. Finally, I said that if our proposal was not accepted, I was authorized to send Colonel Chermside to Zeitoun.

This declaration at once produced the desired effect, and it was agreed that our Dragomans should go in a body to the Palace as well as the Porte the same afternoon, and press for the acceptance of the Consul's mission.

The six Dragomans accordingly called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and pressed for a reply to the proposal made by them on the 28th. Tewfik Pasha retired to consult the Grand Vizier, and, after spending three-quarters of an hour with him, returned and said that the Porte had received a telegram, dated the 30th December to the effect that the Zeitounlis had sent two messages to the Mutessarif of Marash (who was at the head-quarters of the troops), declaring that they would surrender at about 9 A.M. on the 31st. His Excellency added that, though the news of the surrender had not actually arrived, he expected it every minute. The Porte regarded the incident as terminated, and thought there was no further need to avail itself of the Ambassadors' good offices.

The German and Russian Dragomans expressed their concurrence in this view, and said they thought that, as the matter was over, it was superfluous to go to the Palace. The Austrian and French Dragomans and Mr. Block, however, insisted on the necessity of this step, and finally succeeded in inducing their reluctant colleagues to accompany them to the Palace and press the Sultan's First Secretary for an answer to the proposal of the Ambassadors respecting Zeitoun.

Tahsin Bey merely said that the Palace had no information at all about the matter, and that the telegram received by the Porte respecting the surrender had not reached the Sultan. On being pressed for a categorical answer, he sent in a message to His Imperial Majesty. After about an hour's delay, Ahmed Izzet Bey, the Sultan's favourite, brought him back a reply which he delivered to the Dragomans. It was to the following effect.

The proposal of the six Ambassadors had been referred to the Council of Ministers which was in communication with the Ministry of War and the local authorities. His Imperial Majesty believed that the latter were at that moment endeavouring to persuade the Zeitounlis to surrender; under these circumstances, His Imperial Majesty could give no answer.

The First Secretary and Ahmed Izzet then retired, and after a conference read to the Dragomans the résumé of a telegram from the head-quarters at Zeitoun, dated the 19th (31st) December, to the effect that the Zeitounlis had promised to submit, and that the troops had been ordered "not to fire a gun or rifle." The First Secretary then desired them to go to the Grand Vizier. The Dragomans protested that this was most unsatisfactory; they had come from the Porte and were now sent back again; they could only report to their Chiefs that the proposal had been refused. The First Secretary admitted this was practically true, but would not authorize them to say it officially. Finally, he went himself to the Sultan's apartments, and returned with a second message, saying that His Majesty withdrew everything that had been said up to that moment; that he would send for the Grand Vizier, and, after consulting him, communicate his decision to the Ambassadors through the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On the following day, 1st January, I paid a long visit to the Porte and pressed for an answer. I spoke of the painful impression created in England by the renewal of massacres at Ourfa, and the reported sale of Armenian children by Circassians in the district of Aleppo; if these events were followed by a massacre at Zeitoun, it would do incalculable harm. Her Majesty's Government would not remain passive spectators of such an event, and if our proposal for mediation was not accepted by the next day, I should dispatch Colonel Chermside to do what he could on the spot.

Mr. Block made a similar communication to the Sultan's First Secretary and Izzet Bey later in the day. The Sultan sent a message, in reply, saying he was waiting for the decision of the Council then sitting at the Porte. If they had not made up their minds, he would call them to the Palace that night.

At about 9 A.M. the next morning, the Foreign Minister called on me to say that the mediation of the Consuls was accepted, and that orders had been sent for the suspension of hostilities. His Excellency made a similar declaration to the other Ambassadors.

The next day the six Dragomans called on the Foreign Minister, and informed his Excellency that the Ambassadors took note of the Porte's acceptance. They also requested, in our name, that the Zeitounlis might be informed of the arrangement made, and that the Consuls might be granted facilities for travelling and telegraphing. The Minister said he would send the necessary instructions at once,

and it was agreed that the Consuls should address themselves to Edhem Pasha and the Mutessarif of Marash, who are now at Zeitoun.

Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphed on the 5th January that he and his colleagues had proposed mediation to the Zeitounlis by telegraph, and, on the 6th January, that it had been accepted by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 69.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Pera, January 8, 1896.*

THE newspapers publish every day accounts of memorials and telegrams addressed by Armenians to the authorities, either denying that the Christians have been ill-treated or expressing their gratitude to the Sultan for his benevolent and paternal rule.

It is part of the business of the provincial Governors to obtain the signatures of the ecclesiastics and Notables to these productions.

Persecution of every kind is resorted to for this purpose, and in the case of prisoners, torture is frequently inflicted.

The indignation excited by the horrible cruelties which have been perpetrated under the authority of the Sultan's Government must be increased by the baseness of the means by which it attempts to conceal its crimes.

I brought to His Majesty's personal notice on the 29th November, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 884 A, of that date, a case in which one of these documents was extorted from the Armenians of Bitlis, but he took no steps to put a stop to the system.

I inclose some specimens of these addresses, selected at random from the "Levant Herald," and a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Angora on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, January 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the perusal of your Excellency, translations of two telegrams, signed by certain Armenians of Cæsarea and Sungurlu, thanking the Sultan and his Government for the favours and protection accorded to them. A letter of thanks has also been addressed by a few Chorum Armenians to the Vali of Angora.

The Cæsarea authorities pressed the Armenian Bishop there to sign the telegram sent by members of his community to the Vali, but he stubbornly refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Telegram signed by Forty-two Cæsarean Armenians, and sent to the Vali of Angora.

(Translation.)

MAY God preserve the sacred person of His Imperial Majesty from daily cares!

The Undersigned are loyal Armenians such as those who, for more than 600 years past, have lived in high prosperity and in the enjoyment of countless favours under the fostering wing of the Imperial Ottoman Empire. There are no suspicious characters or rascals here, thank God! We are all His Majesty's poor bond slaves, incapable of tendering adequate thanks in return for the numberless blessings showered upon us. During the events which recently occurred in our country, the measures adopted by the

Local Government, and the strenuous efforts made, and still being made, to insure order, are deserving of public thanks.

Pernicious ideas and rascals who know not God we, as loyal subjects, renounce; we tender our eternal allegiance to the Sovereign, and will never stray from the path of obedient loyalty. We implore that we may graciously be permitted to continue in the future—as in the past—to share in the protecting shade of His Imperial Majesty's sceptre.

Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

Telegram to the Ministry of the Interior, signed by Six Armenians of Sungurlu.

(Translation.)

THANKS to the wise rule of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, perfect tranquillity prevails, and public security is complete. We are upon excellent terms with our Mussulman neighbours. The Imperial Government is unwearying in issuing such effectual injunctions to us as are necessary for our well-being; so it is superfluous to add that our rights are zealously protected, and this to such a degree that, even should we habitually leave our house-doors open, not a pin of our property or a hair of our heads would suffer. This, we submit, with thanks, to be the whole truth, and we pray God again and again to prolong the life of His Imperial Majesty.

No. 70.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)

Pera, January 8, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from a Greek of Diarbekir, which has been communicated to me confidentially by the Greek Minister at Constantinople, as giving an authentic account of the sufferings of families of the Orthodox faith in the massacres at Diarbekir and other places.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Extract of a Letter from Diarbekir, dated November 16, 1895.

(Traduction.)

POUR ce qui nous regarde, apprenez que les Kurdes se sont livrés, il y a quelques jours, à un massacre général contre les Arméniens: les uns ont été immolés, les autres contraints d'embrasser l'Islamisme. Dans les six villayets deux seulement des nôtres furent tués et deux blessés; leurs biens pillés, par les Kurdes toujours. Les habitants du petit village nommé Pakoz, du Vilayet de Diarbékir, remontant en tout à 100 familles Orthodoxes, embrassèrent l'Islamisme, le prêtre en tête; mais cette nouvelle je dois vous la donner sous toute réserve, vu que des renseignements précis à ce sujet me fait défaut, car dans Diarbékir même, l'on ne peut pas être au courant de ce que devient l'autre.

Des informations dignes de foi me parviennent de Koumouss Méidan, situé dans le Vilayet de Mamouret-ul-Aziz. Après que les biens de ces Chrétiens fussent arrachés de force et ceux-ci restés sans savoir où s'orienter, les deux églises, Panagia et Saint-Georges, d'une valeur de 20,000*l.*, ont été mises en ruines. L'endroit où l'on faisait le Service Divin sert actuellement d'étables pour les animaux.

Il y a deux jours j'ai reçu du village Kaza Tsimis Kezet Mamsa une dépêche de la part de trente familles Orthodoxes qui m'apprennent que leur fortune leur a été enlevée; qu'elles se trouvent toute nues et éhontées dans les rues implorant la miséricorde.

Je vous prie d'avertir Sa Sainteté afin qu'elle veuille venir en aide à ces pauvres infortunés. Nous autres aussi ignorons le sort qui nous est réservée. Que Dieu nous délivre!

No. 71.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 15.)

Constantinople, January 8, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1003 of the 24th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah respecting the state of affairs in the Hedjaz, and a rumoured expedition against the Sahaf tribe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Jeddah, December 22, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to state that the general position of affairs here remains practically unchanged.

A few more arrests of Bedouins, none of whom are, however, persons of importance, have taken place.

Owing to the scarcity of camels, the rates of transport to Mecca became extraordinarily high, but during the last few days the high rates have attracted a good many Bedouins from tribes to the south of Jeddah, and there is now a sufficiency of transport, while the rates of carriage hire have sensibly fallen. Merchants here have, however, suffered much by the partial interruption of communication with Mecca, and the loss of the trade with the northern Bedouin tribes.

No outrages have been reported on the Mecca road, but a native sailing boat, carrying grain to Yambo, was recently captured at a short distance from this port by a Bedouin sambouk. A similar attack was made upon an armed sambouk coming from the south, but the Bedouins were beaten off.

Rumours are current here that the Grand Shereef will shortly take the field against the Sahaf tribe with a mixed force of Bedouins and regular troops, but I have been unable as yet to obtain any authoritative confirmation of this report.

If this expedition, which has been so long talked of, is really to take place, not a moment should be lost in sending it into the field, before the Indian pilgrims begin to arrive in large numbers.

I have in previous despatches reported to your Excellency that I have no confidence in the sincerity of the Grand Shereef's assurances that he earnestly desires to arrest the murderers, and bring them to public trial, and the opinion prevails here that the expedition, if sent, will in any case return without them, and will content itself with capturing persons who were not directly concerned in the outrage on the Consuls.

The Austrian man-of-war "Pola," which returned here on the 7th instant, left here again, for further surveying and scientific operations, on the 20th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 72.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Consular Agent at Mosul, giving news from that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

Mosul, December 6, 1895.

AT present there are no news of any importance to report except that the battalions of the Anatole troops which were sent to Suleimanich returned to Mosul, and will leave to-morrow for Diarbekir. Our Vali received an order from Constantinople this week to stop payment of salaries for a period of five months and make no expenses whatever without application for sanction to Constantinople, and, owing to the existing straits of the public finances, the Manager of the Mercantile and Agricultural Bank of this vilayet was called upon to remit to Constantinople what is found in its coffers.

The Heads of the Christian communities here, that is, the Chaldean Patriarch, the Syrian Catholic Patriarch, and the Bishop of the Jacobite Syrians, at instigation of the Vali, Salch Pasha, sent telegrams to Constantinople, expressing their thanks to his Excellency, and that, through measures adopted by his Excellency, they with all their communities are enjoying perfect safety, and tranquillity prevails throughout the vilayet.

No. 73.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to the concluding portion of my despatch No. 986 of the 24th December, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that three new Muavins have been named as assistants to the Valis of Kharput, Diarbekir, and Van respectively.

They are as follows: For Kharput, Stepan Effendi, formerly Ottoman Consul at Brăila, an Armenian Catholic, and of good reputation. For Diarbekir, Vaghlui Effendi, a graduate of the Civil School and an assistant at the Council of State; he is Greek Orthodox, and related to the present Ottoman Ambassador in London. For Van, Stepan Melik Effendi, formerly First Secretary of the Ottoman Legation at Athens; he is an Armenian Gregorian, and an intimate friend of the present Minister of Police; his reputation is not good, and he is said to be a spy.

The salaries of the Muavins are to be nominally fixed at the rate of 6,000 piastres a-month, which would be comparatively high pay for the provinces.

At Aleppo, where there are large numbers of Armenians, the newly-appointed Muavin of the Vali is a Moslem, Hadji Reshid Pasha, a member of the Council of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 74.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Pera, January* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation from the Turkish newspaper, the "Ikdam," respecting the situation in Turkey, and referring to speeches made by the Austrian and French Ambassadors to their respective colonies at Constantinople on New Year's Day.

I may add that Baron Calice and M. Cambon do not admit the interpretation placed upon their speeches by the official press.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Extract from the "Ikdam" of January 5, 1896.

(Translation.)

THE European press sums up the past year as one rife in disturbances. As is well known various events have occurred with a view to scatter dissension among the faithful subjects of the Ottoman Empire; these have all been the work of interested parties, and the State had no part in them, for they could only bring damage on the Empire, whose one aim is to establish union among its inhabitants; the State, therefore, cannot be saddled with any responsibility in this respect.

To show that this view is shared by foreign countries we need only point to the New Year's Day speeches of the Austrian and French Ambassadors. Though the majority of the diplomats recognize the wisdom and prudence of His Majesty, yet some of them do not yet admit the evil results of their interference during the last year. If they did so, the responsibility for the misfortunes which have occurred would be fixed by the whole world on these diplomats, and Europe would resound with their blame.

The "Journal de Saint-Pétersbourg" has published an article in the above sense.

While order is being gradually restored throughout our Empire those diplomats, by their ill-timed acts and publications, seek to hamper the tranquillizing efforts of the Government.

It does not redound to the honour of the nineteenth century that diplomats, who by forcing their interference into the internal affairs of the State have brought matters to the shedding of blood, are not held responsible for it.

Another point worthy of note in the speeches of the two Ambassadors aforesaid is the tribute they pay to our Sovereign's desire and efforts for progress. But for this desire, what would not have been the terrible result of the action of the disaffected throughout the Empire, and especially in the capital!

Thanks to His Majesty's unceasing efforts the attempts of the ill-disposed to profit by the dissensions and affrays between Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans have been unavailing, and, except for those who actually took part in sedition, no non-Mussulman has been attacked.

What has happened has been attack by foolish persons led away by foreign instigation, and legitimate defence by Mussulmans of their own lives, honour, and property. The lying reports published are a mark of enmity, while the whole civilized world praises the efforts of our Government in the cause of tranquillity, which cannot keep silence while a few depraved individuals attribute to us the responsibility of what has happened.

Though during the past year many Ottoman subjects, both Mussulman and non-Mussulman, have suffered loss, this has been due to foreign intrigue. Our Government has done its best to alleviate the evil. Thank Heaven, these losses will soon be forgotten and our countrymen of all religions will live happily together and strive to redeem the past.

Meanwhile, we thank the Austrian and French Ambassadors for their friendly utterances.

Though the Mussulmans suffered by far the most they have not stained their honour nor attacked any without cause, but merely shown that they are always ready when necessary to rise, arms in hand, for the legitimate defence of their lives, property, honour, and reputation.

No. 75.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Pera, January* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of an official communication which appeared in the Turkish newspapers this morning, announcing the appointment of a Commission, under the presidency of the Sultan, for the relief of Mussulman and non-Mussalman sufferers from the recent troubles in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of January 10, 1896.

COMMISSION OF RELIEF.—This morning's Turkish papers publish an official communication to the following effect :—

"His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has ordered the institution of a Commission under his high presidency with the object of giving relief to the Mussulman and non-Mussulman inhabitants of some provinces of Anatolia who have suffered from the troubles which broke out there lately. Marshal Ismail Pasha, Vice-President of the Superior Military Commission, sitting at the Palace of Yildiz, has been appointed Vice-President of the new Commission of Relief, which will reckon among its members several State functionaries. The Commission will print a number of subscription tichets, and the funds collected will be employed in relieving the necessitous inhabitants, and rebuilding and repairing their houses. The institution of this Commission is another proof of the Sultan's feelings of compassion and sympathy with all those who suffer wherever and whoever they may be."

No. 76.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Pera, January* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Levant Herald" of to-day's date, giving a translation of an article in the Turkish newspaper, the "Sabah," on a speech stated to have been made in England by Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador in London, on the situation in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of January 10, 1896.

THIS morning's "Sabah" indignantly protests against certain European politicians who are in the habit of exaggerating recent events in Turkey, and drawing therefrom conclusions altogether incorrect. "Fortunately," our contemporary goes on to say, "there are other statesmen who are acquainted with the facts of the situation, to whom the paternal sentiments by which His Imperial Majesty the Sultan is inspired are not unknown, and who take advantage of every opportunity to refute malevolent assertions and to present facts as they really are. Among these truthful men we must mention the German Ambassador in London, who in an important speech delivered at a meeting in that city, spoke of the feelings of justice and equity of the Imperial Government. Count Hatzfeldt refuted the attacks directed against our Government by its enemies, and expressed his astonishment at seeing certain diplomatists take part in them. The Ambassador added that his Sovereign deeply regretted the ill-will shown to the Porte, and that His Majesty will probably make known in a speech the profound impression which these unjust

accusations have created upon his mind. The Count closed his speech by condemning in severe terms the conduct of those agitators who, having no interests in the Empire, are intriguing for selfish purposes." The "Sabah" concludes by expressing the hope that speeches delivered by such men as the German Ambassador will have the effect of putting a stop to the hostility shown towards the Imperial Government.

No. 77.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul, acting at Erzeroum, transmitting three despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the situation in the Vilayet of Bitlis. I have instructed Mr. Block to read these despatches to the Sultan's First Secretary, and to make strong representations respecting the removal of the Cadi and the punishment of the guilty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 23, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th December, I have the honour to forward copies of three despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the situation in the Bitlis Vilayet.

I have communicated to Shakir Pasha Mr. Hampson's reference to the relations between the Mutessarif and the Military Commander, and his Excellency assured me that he would do his best to remedy matters.

He also promised to interfere on behalf of Miridjanian Effendi, the Armenian Notable, mentioned as wrongly imprisoned in connection with the riots there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Mush, December* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that there is no change in the situation here. Order is maintained, and the Kurds in the neighbourhood are, for the moment, quiet; but I fear that there is but little real improvement in the general position. In this town only a very few shops are open. Business is at a standstill, and no money is to be found anywhere. The Government chests are empty, and, personally, I am unable to find any one to cash a cheque. All—Mussulmans and Christians alike—seem to feel that things cannot remain as they are. The former say, "Is it possible that even this will be allowed to pass? that, after going so far, we shall simply return to our former ways?" While the Armenians, in utter desperation, ask, "Even if Sasun and the Commission of Inquiry resulted in nothing but another paper scheme of reforms, will Europe, will England, permit these recent massacres to pass unnoticed? Will not one Turk be punished for them? Will all go on as before?"

The members of the Armenian family, arrested here in Mush in connection with the late riot, as reported in my despatches of the 26th November and of the 3rd instant, have, on the strong representations made by the Mutessarif to Bitlis, been released, with the exception, however, of the head of the family, who was—as the Mutessarif himself saw—sitting in the house of the Armenian Bishop at the time of the riot.

The judicial authorities, however, apparently detain him until the bribe demanded is paid to them.

In this connection, the Mutessarif, who appears much discouraged at the opposition which he meets with in all his attempts at good government, at the official corruption, and hopeless position which he finds here, has asked me, confidentially, through his Private Secretary, to inform Her Majesty's Embassy that he is not responsible for any miscarriage of justice in the matter of the recent disorders; that the inquiry has passed into the hands of the "Cadi," who refuses to pay any attention to his representations: and that, if any further disturbances should arise, he has warned me that the "Cadi" would be at the bottom of them.

I believe that the Mutessarif is fully justified in this opinion, as the "Cadi" is an unscrupulous, fanatical official, actuated solely by ideas of gain and by hatred of all Christians, and also bitterly jealous of the Mutessarif.

At the same time, the latter informed me that his chief difficulty in dealing with Kurdish lawlessness was the delay caused by his being unable to move any troops without a lengthy official correspondence with the military authorities.

He expressed also to me, very openly, his entire distrust of Shakir Pasha as an agent for reforms, especially after the latter's published telegram pretending to throw all the blame for disorders in the Erzeroum Vilayet on the Haideranli Kurds. This telegram seems to have provoked much contempt and derision among the intelligent Mussulmans, both the honest and the dishonest.

I had the honour to telegraph the tenour of the last three paragraphs to Her Majesty's Embassy on the 4th instant.

I learn that taxes are being collected in the neighbouring villages—poverty-stricken though they now are—in the old manner and with all the usual harshness and oppression.

With reference to the remarks at the end of my despatch of the 26th November respecting the Kurds, I can state, on perfectly reliable authority, that the Sasun Kurds say openly to the Armenians of that district, "What does it mean? first the Government tells us to massacre you all, and now they arrest and attack us, though we have done next to nothing."

Meanwhile, in Sasun and Talori, the soldiers, stationed in commanding positions, appear to be keeping the Kurds quiet.

In accordance with the local theory and tradition of Government, the notorious Halil of Sasun has been also commissioned to maintain order among the Kurds of his region. The Mutessarif professes ignorance of any such order, which is probably the work of Haggi Taib.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 77.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, December* 11, 1895.

I LEARN from a reliable source that all the surviving Armenians in the villages of the districts of Sairt, of Chabakchour (Guendj), and of Ilidja (Diarbekir) have been forced to become Mussulmans. In the latter district the Christians were at once circumcized.

The Kurdish outrages in all these regions have been terrible; men killed, women violated, and all property carried off or destroyed.

In Sairt itself seventy men were massacred; eleven villages in the neighbourhood have been pillaged, many of the inhabitants killed, and the survivors forced to accept Islam.

From the village of Guindzig, twenty-three of the inhabitants, who had fled to the fields, perished of cold and starvation.

In Shervan, at least ten villages have suffered the same fate.

In Hizan it is the same.

Everywhere the churches have been either ruined or converted into mosques.

Some Turks and Kurds tried to start a fresh disturbance in the market here in Mush yesterday afternoon; but, perceiving the intention, and by the advice of the better class Turks, all the Armenians at once closed their shops and went home. There is absolutely no security, and most serious disorders may occur at any moment.

In the present state of things, I see no hope of improvement without some radical change, unless all Armenians become Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I have just learnt that the Military Commander has now joined the Cadi in opposition to the Mutessarif, whom they accuse of English sentiments. This, with the news of a terrible massacre in Cæsarea, makes the position here most serious, and the panic is again extreme. I am telegraphing as above to Her Majesty's Embassy.

C. S. H.

Inclosure 4 in No. 77.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, December* 17, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that certain of the officials in the town are endeavouring to obtain from the Armenians signatures to a "Mashata," to the effect that they are perfectly satisfied with the existing state of things; that any disturbances which have arisen were caused by their own intrigues, which were prompted from Europe and by Europeans; and that they protest against foreign Governments in any way interfering in the affairs of this country. So far, all the leading Armenians have steadily refused to sign such a document, at the same time professing their willingness to formally express their loyalty to the Sultan, satisfaction with the present Mutessarif, and gratitude for his efforts to maintain order.

Great uneasiness continues to exist here. The breach between the Mutessarif on one side and the Cadi and Military Commander on the other appears to be widening, in spite of the efforts of the Mufti (who supports the Mutessarif) to adjust matters. The last named is evidently very anxious, and has intimated to me that he cannot answer for what may happen if the Cadi, who openly accuses him of taking bribes from the Armenians and of seeking English favour, is allowed to continue his intrigues.

The two great sources of danger here are, in my opinion, the Cadi and Hajji Taib. Of the latter I have frequently had cause to write. He has great influence among the Mussulmans, but is a wild and unscrupulous fanatic. He is accused of having organized the massacre in Bitlis, which followed immediately on a visit which he made there.

That city still appears to be in a very unsettled state, while the distress is very great, the Government giving no assistance to the destitute.

In Hizan matters are very bad; in fact, it is said to have been a second Sassoun.

In this sandjak things are fairly quiet, though the Kurds perpetually threaten the villages, which are also harassed by the collection of taxes ("tahsillat").

All Christians and Mussulmans alike appear to be waiting: what for, they do not know; but the general and most openly expressed idea is certainly the Russians. All seem convinced that things cannot continue as they are.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 78.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum respecting the state of the town and vilayet of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December 24,* 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the situation in that district.

Shakir Pasha admitted to me a few days ago that he was not quite easy in his mind about Van, and that he was in constant communication with the Vali.

He hopes that Sandeddin Pasha will arrive there soon, and that the position will improve.

The three Kurdish Chiefs mentioned by Mr. Hallward are here, but it has not been decided how to proceed against them.

Shakir Pasha is also taking steps for the arrest of the brigand Shakir referred to by Mr. Hallward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Van, December* 18, 1895.

THINGS have remained quiet so far in this town, but I cannot say that the population as yet feel much confidence in the continuance of security. The bazaars have been only partially opened, the principal merchants being afraid to take the initiative in opening their shops for fear of incurring responsibility in case of disturbance. This state of things is unsatisfactory, as it irritates the Government and the Turks generally, and inflicts great loss on the population. It is to be hoped that in time confidence may be restored, but unless some measures are taken against the Kurds, I fear the existing feeling of uncertainty and insecurity as regards the future will continue.

The number of Christians killed in the villages by the Kurds is estimated at upwards of 200, and hitherto no Kurd has been called to account either for these murders or for the innumerable robberies that have been committed. It appears that Emin Hussein and Tamir Pashas have been summoned to Erzeroum, and you will know what measures, if any, the Government are taking with regard to them, but they are responsible only for the districts to the north of the lake, and nothing is as yet being done to the Kurds of other tribes to the east and south. The brigand Shakir, to whom I have frequently alluded, is still at large, and no order has been given for his arrest.

A few refugee villagers have come from Khizan, and confirm the statement I made in my despatch of the 26th ultimo, that many villagers in that caza were killed, and that others saved their lives by turning Moslem, the result being that whole villages have now become Moslem, and that Mussulman priests have been sent to them by the Sheikh of Khizan to instruct them in the Moslem faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 79.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 894 of the 3rd December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the result of investigations into the alleged torture of certain Armenians at Carali and Polatli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Acting-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, January* 6, 1896.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the 30th November last, reporting that two Armenians were said to have been tortured to death by the prison officials at Carali, and that another, named Agob, had been very brutally beaten by five Turkish workmen at Polatli, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency the result of the inquiry made, at my request, into these alleged outrages by the authorities here.

According to a letter received by the Assistant Vali of Angora from the Kaïmakam of Carali, the two deceased Armenians had arrived from Constantinople in ill-health, and, as proved by medical certificate, died shortly afterwards a natural death in the Carali prison. In both instances two local Armenians were invited to inspect the bodies before interment, and failed to detect upon them any marks of ill-usage whatsoever.

The man Agob is, it appears, an employé of the Constantinople Angora Railway Company, who have taken up the case and prosecuted the assailants. The five Turks have been arrested and conveyed to Sivri-Hissar to undergo their trial.

The Kaïmakam of Polatli, however, did his best, I am assured, to influence the report of the doctor summoned to examine the injured man, by urging him to certify that the bruises which Agob had sustained might have resulted either from a fall or from ordinary disease.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 80.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1020 of the 31st December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting on the action of the authorities after the massacre at Cæsarea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, January* 6, 1896.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the 24th ultimo, reporting upon the disturbance at Cæsarea and the abduction of an Armenian girl, former pupil of the American school there, I now have the honour to submit such information as I have obtained with respect to the action of the authorities after the cessation of the disorder, and to the whereabouts of the missing girl.

During the evening, after the disturbance had subsided, several hundred Armenians were conveyed to the Government House by soldiers, who robbed many of them on the way. At the Konak they were searched, but only three pistols in all were found among them. The authorities subsequently formed a Committee, composed partly of Christians and partly of Turks, to ransack all Armenian shops, with the view of confiscating any weapons discovered therein. In the course of a careful and systematic search throughout the market five fire-arms were brought to light. No effort whatsoever was made to disarm Mussulmans or search their shops.

During the past three weeks a part of the looted property has been collected by the Government. A large number of rugs were laid out in the Protestant church on the 26th ultimo for recovery by the rightful owners; these rugs, however, are characterized

by my correspondents as "mere trash;" nothing valuable appears to have been handed over.

The judicial authorities charged with the execution of such justice as is to be granted to the Armenians seem to be doing their utmost to confute any evidence given against individual Moslems.

The house of an Armenian physician named Avedis, who perished with his family after several hours' gallant resistance, was set fire to by certain Turks: the incendiaries' names were subsequently reported to the Government by neighbours who had witnessed the affair. They declared, during examination upon oath, that they had seen these Turks piling up reeds saturated in oil around the house referred to; the case, however, was dismissed owing to their inability to specify which man had struck the match with which the reeds were kindled.

I shall not fail to draw the attention of the Vali to the manner in which justice is being administered at the present moment at Cæsarea; but as the judicial authorities are dependent upon the Ministry of Justice alone, Tewfik Pasha's influence over them cannot well be very great.

The name of the abducted girl is Narinzar Kiritlian. Her mother was murdered before her eyes, and their house was completely plundered and destroyed. The murderer's name is said to be Kantarji Sulcïman; that of the abductor, Deli Ferzullah Oglou.

The American missionaries have requested me to do what I can in the matter. As these gentlemen, however, are American subjects, I would request your Excellency's instructions before taking any further action towards the girl's recovery. Any enforced and rigorous search for her may, I would submit, if she is still living, place her life in danger; the abductor may feel disposed to kill her rather than risk exposure by allowing her at present to return to her friends.

In conclusion, the evidence of an Armenian quaker of Polish origin, who returned from Cæsarea the other day, may prove of interest to your Excellency. He tells me that he was at the Konak when the disturbance began, and that he saw several bodies of Armenians brought in bearing bayonet wounds. In one instance he counted three such wounds. Later on, he saw soldiers with fixed bayonets surrounding an Armenian who had attempted to defend his shop against a Turk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 81.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, reporting on the state of affairs in that vilayet.

I am making representations at the Porte on the points mentioned by Mr. Bulman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Sivas, December* 31, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that a disturbance took place at Vezir Keupru, in the Sandjak of Amassia, on the 15th of this month, which resulted in the death of about fifty Armenians, and the pillage of some houses. As the riot was immediately suppressed, I did not consider it of sufficient importance to report by telegram.

I beg to furnish the following details of the disturbances that have occurred at places in the vilayet, where I have been able to obtain trustworthy details.

At Khavsa, in the Sandjak of Amassia, a disturbance occurred on the 17th November. There were about 150 Armenians out of a population of about 1,000. Of

these 11 were killed. All the shops were pillaged. The rest of the Armenians were then sent by the Government to Marsovan for better protection, with the exception of three families, consisting of eleven persons, who still remain at Khavsa.

At Amassia the disturbance broke out on the 16th November. About forty Armenians were killed, and a number of shops pillaged. The resolute courage of the Mutessarif, Bekir Pasha, who rode among the rioters, and himself knocked several of them down, alone saved the town from further disaster. He was saluted with cries of "Ghiour," and openly taunted with having taken money from the Armenians to protect them.

At Sivas a Turkish official privately stated that the number of inhabitants of Sivas killed was 2,000; the damage, at the lowest estimate, 500,000*l*.

At each of these places the soldiers took part in the pillage, and, with reference to this, I beg to point out the necessity of urging on the Porte the desirability of transferring the Redifs of one vilayet to another. At present the Redifs are in garrison close to their own villages, and, in case of disturbance, are called on to resist their own relatives and friends, with whom they are in almost daily contact. I have already spoken of this to the Vali, and he informs me he has moved some of the troops to different parts of the vilayet, but, in view of fresh disturbances, it is important that a more general transfer should be made. I have further urged the Governor-General to demand from each of the Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams of the vilayet the names of those who have openly incited the people to pillage and massacre, with a view to their being exiled, and I beg to point out the importance of calling on the Turkish Government to send instructions to that effect. I believe there is no immediate danger of fresh outbreaks, but if nothing is done to punish those who have been directly inciting the people, and are now merely waiting an opportunity to do so again, then most probably fresh massacres will occur, and will be directed not only against the Armenians, but against all who have shown the slightest sympathy with them.

On Thursday last, there was a very general rumour that a fresh massacre would take place at Sivas on Saturday. Several Armenians were warned by friendly Turks to remain hidden. The Governor-General arrested several Mussulmans, and the town has remained perfectly quiet.

As regards the general condition of the country, there is a complete stagnation of trade. The road from Samsoun was almost deserted, and many of the roadside khans are closed. The Armenian villages throughout the province have been looted of everything. The Government has, in some cases, returned some of their cattle.

Exact details of the massacre that occurred in every village are difficult to obtain, but I give a report of the massacre at Hakim Khan, since it is, to a certain extent, corroborated by a Circassian, whose statements are presumably correct.

Hakim Khan contains about 260 Armenians, and the rest Mussulmans, who had hitherto lived in perfect friendship. On the morning of the 5th November about thirty soldiers arrived in the village from Malatieh, and openly stated they had been ordered to kill the Armenians. The villagers joined them, and the Armenians were looted of everything. About fifty were killed, and the rest only saved themselves by becoming Mussulmans.

A Circassian driver stated that on this day, the 5th November, he was taking a party of ten Armenians in two carts to Hakim Khan. At the outskirts of the village a Turkish woman warned them they were killing the Christians in the village. They tried to turn back, but saw a party of Turks on the road behind them. He then drove them to the Government House for protection, and on the road was asked if his passengers were Christians, but replied they were not. At the Government House they were refused admission, and he then drove to the Khan. On the road two Armenians jumped out and were killed. After reaching the Khan some zaptiehs came and took the Armenians and their property to the Government House. He did not see the Armenians again, but heard from another Circassian that all had been killed.

I have received similar details from a number of villages, and I believe them to be correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 82.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication which I have received from Dr. Raynolds and Messrs. Cole and Knapp, American missionaries associated in the relief work at Sasun, expressing their high appreciation of the services of Mr. Hampson during the late period of insecurity in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Revs. R. Cole and G. Raynolds to Sir P. Currie.

Dear Sir, *Bitlis, December 2, 1895.*

OUR somewhat prolonged term of mutual association in relief work at Sasun now drawing to a close, it has seemed desirable to us, the American members of that Commission, to forward to you as his official superior an expression of our high appreciation of the faithful service rendered by our President, Mr. C. S. Hampson, during the time we have been associated together.

First, as President of our Commission he has always been ready to give us his advice and co-operation, while courteously declining to mingle in the discussion of those questions which he was generous enough to insist we were best able to decide ourselves.

From the beginning he has taken pains to secure our personal rights when questioned by the Turks, but it has been especially during these fearful weeks that we have felt that, humanly speaking, our lives were largely in his keeping, as against the fanaticism and hatred of high and low among the Moslems, and right nobly has he thrown himself into the breach, labouring indefatigably and with remarkable tact, firmness, and skill, till we now feel that our persons are moderately safe.

Of the prominent rôle he has filled with good judgment and courage in the general efforts put forth by your Government to inaugurate reforms in this land, it is, perhaps, hardly our sphere to speak.

But outside all this work for ourselves, that which awakens the most fervent gratitude in our hearts is what he has so generously done to secure the safety of our missionary circle at Bitlis, whose condition for so many days was past description in its agonizing terror. The first ray of light which appeared came through the strong telegraphic orders which, through his representations, your Excellency was able to secure.

As American citizens, exposed to so much anxiety as all of us have been, who have been placed in circumstances of so great peril during these recent weeks, we feel warmest gratitude towards your Government and all its Representatives, to whom we have been allowed to turn as our protectors.

Excuse the prolixity of this address, but we could not put all we wished to say in fewer words.

Accept our highest regards, and believe us, &c.
(Signed) R. M. COLE.
G. C. RAYNOLDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Rev. G. Knapp to Sir P. Currie.

Dear Sir, *Bitlis, December 2, 1895.*

AS one who took Mr. Cole's place in Sasun for several weeks, and had the privilege of meeting Mr. Hampson, I wish to add to the above my own high appreciation of his personal qualities. I would also try to express my deep gratitude, and that of the ladies and children that were under my care at the time of the massacre, for

Mr. Hampson's vigorous representations which secured our protection at a time when the local Government, far from taking steps for our safety, was trying to force the Armenians into signing papers making me responsible for the slaughter. For the friendly offices of your Government we shall ever remain most grateful debtors.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE PERKINS KNAPP.

No. 83.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 13, 1896.*

AARIF PASHA, the special Envoy recently sent by the Sultan to the Emperor of Russia, is now on his way back from St. Petersburgh. He was accompanied by a Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, and was furnished with special instructions, which were communicated to M. de Nélidoff. It has been stated in some foreign newspapers and elsewhere that his mission was connected with a project of sending Russian officers to inspect and, if necessary, assist in strengthening the fortifications of the Dardanelles. I am inclined, however, to think that any negotiations which may have been recently proceeding between Turkey and Russia have been conducted here rather than at St. Petersburgh.

Aarif Pasha is said to be a man of little intelligence; he speaks only Turkish, and, though a Rear-Admiral, has seen no service, having passed most of his career in the Palace.

There is no doubt, however, that the Sultan intended this mission as a very special attention to the Emperor of Russia, as Aarif Pasha was the bearer of the most costly presents both to His Imperial Majesty and the Empress. They comprised not only jewelled harness and sadlery, but also the famous "Shepherd's stone," said to be the tenth finest diamond in Europe. This jewel was formerly set in the Imperial sceptre, but, according to the story, was lost by one of the Sultans when walking near the Sweet Waters. It was, however, picked up and returned by a shepherd, whence its name.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 84.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 13. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 12, 1896.*

COUNT NIGRA, my Italian colleague, who has denied himself to all callers, including the Ambassadors, for a whole week, paid me a visit last evening, having heard that I had complained of his inaccessibility.

He gave me to understand that his Government had been profoundly impressed by the report which had reached them, that Her Majesty's Government had been in communication with Russia for a partition of the Ottoman Empire! He affirmed that he had himself given no credence to this report, but that it had apparently emanated from a Russian source, and had consequently produced a certain uneasiness at Rome.

I told Count Nigra that it was an entire invention, and that recently, when Count Goluchowski mentioned the rumours that Her Majesty's Government contemplate a change of policy in flat contradiction to that consecrated by tradition and maintained by consecutive Administrations, I had derided the stories as absurd.

His Excellency observed that the fact that Count Goluchowski had spoken on this subject to me was interesting, as confirmation of the currency of the rumours in circulation as to the untrustworthiness of English policy, which had evidently been maliciously propagated for the purpose of inspiring suspicion of our intentions,

and of shaking the confidence of Italy and Austria in our honest concurrence in their views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 85.

Sir. E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 15. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 14, 1896.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I asked Count Goluchowski on the 11th instant if he had received any information confirmatory of the report, telegraphed by Sir Philip Currie, of an appeal made by the Sultan for the protection of the Emperor Nicholas, and of the conditions on which such protection would be granted.

I told Count Goluchowski at the same time that your Lordship had received from other sources news of the concentration of very large numbers of Russian troops in the direction of Kars, which, if true, might give colour to the rumour that there is a question of the occupation of the Armenian vilayets by Russian forces.

His Excellency said that no such information had reached him, and that he did not for a moment believe it could be true. Baron Calice attached no great importance to the recent special mission sent with presents from the Sultan to the Emperor Nicholas; and Count Goluchowski himself thought it extremely unlikely either that the Sultan would listen to a proposal for the occupation suggested, or that Russia would make it.

His Excellency is of opinion that as far as the Sultan's personal safety is concerned, it would be gravely endangered by his consenting to the entry of Russian troops into his dominion, as such a step would inevitably rouse against him the bitter animosity of his Mussulman subjects, while, as for Russia, it is not by any means her game to precipitate matters by hasty action.

Of the accumulation of Russian troops on the Kars–Batoum line and adjacent districts, his Excellency has heard nothing; but Austria-Hungary has no Consuls in that region. All that he knew of Russian preparations related to the constant readiness in which the Black Sea fleet is held at Sebastopol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 86.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 14, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 1st instant, reporting Count Goluchowski's observations on the impossibility of risking a European war by undertaking coercive intervention in favour of the Armenians, I have the honour to state that his Excellency called on me yesterday afternoon, and that our conversation turned upon the same subject.

Count Goluchowski said that the prospect of the suffering through which the Armenians have passed, and which they have yet in all probability to undergo, is so terrible that pure humanitarians would naturally be prone to accuse those in whose power they believe it to be to prevent such misery of heartless cruelty, or at any rate of cynical indifference.

Considerations of this nature, however painful, must not, nevertheless, be allowed to outweigh the arguments against attempting armed intervention which he had so repeatedly adduced. No one can more clearly than himself perceive the horrors of the situation, nor feel more acutely the bitterness of the incapacity of Europe to ameliorate it.

I report this because I am anxious to do justice to Count Goluchowski, and to assure your Lordship that, in taking the line which he has followed he is but adopting the policy which all his countrymen who are responsible for the direction of affairs

approve, and which is urged upon him from sources the importance of which he is bound to respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 86*.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 17, 1·10 P.M.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 17, 1896.*

ACTING Consul at Aleppo telegraphed yesterday that Consular Commission had started for Zeitoun.

No. 87.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 35. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo on the subject of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, December 27, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, with reference to my telegram of the 25th instant, reporting the action at Zeitoun on Monday, the 23rd, that I sent that message after reading one from Mustafa Remzi Pasha, dated from Zeitoun the previous evening.

That telegram bore no other interpretation than that Zeitoun had been taken; but it contained details which on the face of it were open to doubt—such as the statement that only one Turkish officer and ten soldiers were killed,* and ten wounded.

I asked the Ferik what he thought of the telegram, and he said there could be no doubt that Zeitoun had fallen.

With regard to the number of casualties, he explained to me that the Armenians had no guns in action, as those which they had captured at the commencement of the campaign had been since disabled, but that the troops had eight. He admitted, however, that perhaps the figures were not to be trusted, being "official."

The losses on the Armenian side are unknown, but probably considerable.

Mustapha Remzi Pasha must have known that his position was not so secure as described in his telegram. Directly after the destruction of the barracks, and flight of the survivors, the Armenians appeared in force on a neighbouring hill, and there can be no doubt that a battle will ensue, if it has not already occurred at the time I write.

The Armenian forces are made up of the young men of Zeitoun, Fernouz, Kirechpounar, and many other villages which were burnt by the Turks during their advance.

It is most difficult to form a correct idea of the situation. The number of Armenians in the field may be anything from 5,000 (Turkish estimate) to 20,000 (Armenian). The wildest reports are received from the Armenians in Aleppo of repeated disasters to the Turkish arms, and certainly these reports receive colour from tales told by deserters, and from the frequency with which reinforcements are sent to the front.

At the present moment the Turkish Government are exceedingly anxious about the situation.

The Ferik has received a telegram from the Serasker Pasha, who, ignoring the fact

* "Died for the faith—Shehi."

that the direction of the campaign had been removed from his hands three weeks ago, blames him for not having informed the Government of the gravity of the situation, but at the same time thanks him for services rendered recently in Aleppo, and begs him to undertake the settlement of the Zeitoun question.

I do not know what reply Edhem Pasha has given, but he anticipates that he will receive orders to proceed to Zeitoun, and, in that case, it becomes an important question who should take command in Aleppo during his absence.

In speaking of the situation here, the Ferik says he can trust the troops (the Regulars from the Aidin Vilayet), but he can trust few of his officers. There are only three good reliable men on his staff: Shevket Pasha, the Commander of Artillery, Rifaat Bey, his Aide-de-camp, and Mustapha Bey (Artillery), and the proper person to take temporary command here would be Shevket Pasha.

It should not be Bahri Pasha, the Commander of Reserves. All the good Edhem Pasha has done here would be undone in his hands.

It has come to my knowledge that, after the massacre at Aintab, a rising was planned by the Moslems in the Bab-ul-Necrab quarter of Aleppo, and that Edhem Pasha, being informed of the fact, went to the mosque while the people were at prayers, taking with him an officer as interpreter (for he cannot speak Arabic), and warned the people to keep quiet, proving to them from the Koran that it was forbidden by their Creed to murder the Christians, and at the same time telling them that if they did so he would destroy every house in the quarter with his artillery. He was reduced to great straits at that moment, for all his regular troops had been taken from him and sent to Aintab, and he had only one battalion of Reserves in the city. He called on his Artillerymen (240) and converted them into an alternative infantry force, supplying them with rifles and making them take an oath of fidelity to himself. I think that Edhem Pasha must present a bright contrast to most of the officers who have held chief command during the recent troubles.

I mention these incidents to show that there has been a period of great danger here, and that it may occur again if we have not the right man on the spot to direct the troops.

Much, too, depends upon the character of the Vali who will be finally chosen for this vilayet. Had the late Vali, Hassan Hakki Pasha, been here alone at the time of the Aintab massacre, an outbreak would certainly have occurred.

If Edhem Pasha takes the command at Zeitoun, Mustafa Remzi Pasha will probably be removed altogether. It, of course, depends upon what influence is at work at the Palace.

Mustafa Remzi Pasha is greatly blamed for his conduct of the campaign, and for his behaviour at Marash. He is constantly in a state of intoxication, and was probably so on the day of the massacre, for he did not leave his house until the fury of the mob had expended itself. He should be held mainly responsible for what occurred that day.

In the event of the Ferik proceeding to Zeitoun, he wishes me to introduce him to the American missionaries in Aintab and Marash, to obtain their advice about the way to approach the Armenians.

His hope is that he may be able to do some such thing as he did when he was Commandant and Vali of Kossova a few years ago, when he settled a dispute which threatened to cause bloodshed between the Latins and Greeks. That was a case in which a church which had been built by the Greeks, abandoned by them and allowed to fall into ruin, was after many years appropriated by the Latins, whose right to do so was disputed in arms by the Greeks. In settling the dispute Edhem Pasha had the personal assistance of the Consuls and Military Attachés of the Embassies concerned, and the history of this incident, if known to Her Majesty's Government, may be taken as a gauge of his fitness to act at Zeitoun.

He hopes that he might be able to induce the Armenians to lay down their arms, and his idea is that an attempt should be made to settle the question on the following lines:—

The lives of all should be spared, even those of the Hunchag leaders, who should be expelled from the country. The Government should give the Zeitounlis a grant of good land, such as is found on the shores of the Euphrates north of Biredjik. The Government should either build them houses, or supply the money to build them, and provide seed for first crops, and should take no taxes from them during a reasonable period. At the same time their settlement should be commanded by a military post, both to keep them in order and to protect them from the neighbouring Circassians.

This sounds Utopian at present, as contrasted with the misrule and cruelty which prevails everywhere, but they are the ideas of a man who is keenly desirous for reforms, both because he is a good man and because he has vested interests in the country. He

is, however, an exile of eighteen years' standing, and may not return to Constantinople so long as the present Sultan is on the throne, because he was in command of the garrison at Constantinople during the *coup d'État* of Midhat Pasha, and his liberal views are known at the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 88.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January 20.*)

(No. 11. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note in which, by your Lordship's desire, I communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 967, Confidential, of the 19th December last, together with your Lordship's suggestion that, in view of the grave considerations advanced by his Excellency, the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be instructed to co-operate in devising some remedy for the existing state of things in Turkey.

In handing this note to Prince Lobanow, I especially called his Excellency's attention to the fact that the proposed instructions were limited to an authorization to the Ambassadors to discuss the situation and report to their respective Governments any remedy which their united counsels and their intimate acquaintance with the country might devise for the amelioration of a state of affairs which was causing general uneasiness.

After reading the note, his Excellency said that your Lordship's suggestion required considerable reflection, and that he would send an answer to your Lordship, either through me or through the Russian Ambassador in London.

His Excellency, however, commenced a conversation on the subject, which I think it my duty to report to your Lordship.

In the first place, his Excellency said that things had quieted down in Turkey very considerably, and that with the exception of the affair at Zeitoun, nothing had recently occurred to justify the assumption that the Sultan's efforts to restore order would not be successful. I reminded his Excellency that the massacre at Ourfa was a very recent occurrence, and that with that terrible outbreak fresh in one's mind, it was difficult to regard the situation as very hopeful or to disregard the possibility of the recurrence of events of a similar nature.

His Excellency answered that, of course, everything was possible, but that he saw nothing to destroy his confidence in the "bonne volonté" of the Sultan, who was, he felt assured, doing his best.

I observed that even if one had that confidence in His Majesty's good intentions, it appeared clear from what had occurred that he was unable, probably from the reasons hinted at by Sir Philip Currie, to put them into practice, at all events with the rapidity which the urgency of the situation demanded. Under these circumstances I felt convinced that his Excellency would share your Lordship's opinion that it was incumbent upon the Treaty Powers to do all they could to devise some means by which the causes of the Sultan's failure might, if possible, be removed, and the machinery of the Government be strengthened in such a manner as to minimize the risks which were a source of disquiet to the whole of Europe.

I added that the spring was not far off, and that I had learnt from his own lips that he felt much anxiety as to what might occur during that season unless affairs became more settled.

His Excellency said that he had felt, and still felt, anxiety on that head, and that he had consequently instructed the Russian Ministers at Bucharest, Belgrade, and Athens to lose no opportunity of impressing upon the Governments to which they were accredited the necessity of doing all in their power to maintain tranquillity in the districts under their control, and to let them know that any disturbance of the *status quo* would be viewed by Russia with great concern. He had also taken steps to let the views held by the Imperial Government on this subject be known in Sophia. But, he added, if trouble is to come in Macedonia and the Balkans, it will come in spite of all that the Ambassadors at Constantinople may do or devise.

In speaking of the concert of the Ambassadors, he denied that it had been limited to the protection of foreigners, and gave, as an instance to the contrary, the

reforms which had been imposed upon the Sultan by the joint action of the Powers, and more recently their mediation at Zeitoun.

I ventured to observe, in reply, that it was my impression that, subsequently to the discussions which had taken place amongst the Ambassadors of all the Powers respecting the measures to be taken for the safety of their nationals in the event of an outbreak at Constantinople, there had been a disposition amongst the majority of them to extend the discussion to the consideration of some means of ameliorating a situation which rendered such an outbreak possible, but that M. de Nelidow had given his colleagues to understand that his instructions did not authorize him to do so.

Prince Lobanow here remarked that in his instructions to M. de Nelidow he had given his Excellency considerable latitude, but he did not say how far that latitude extended.

His Excellency said, in conclusion, that he had lived some time at Constantinople, and that your Lordship, who had also been there, must know as well as he did what a hopeless, impossible task it would be to try and impose a more enlightened system of Government on the Sultan. Parliament, representative Government, responsibility of Ministers were excellent things in their way, but in Constantinople they would be mere words that conveyed no meaning to the Turkish mind.

I reminded his Excellency that some time had elapsed since he was at Constantinople, and that recent events showed that certain changes had taken place in Turkish feeling, to which he answered, after a brief reference to Midhat Pasha, "Turkey never changes."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—Your Lordship will no doubt shortly receive a definite answer from Prince Lobanow with regard to the suggested instructions to the Ambassadors at Constantinople; but I have reported the above conversation at length, as it shows to a certain extent the bent of his Excellency's mind on the subject.

W. E. G.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Mr. Goschen to Prince Lobanow.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, January* 3 (15), 1896.

IN recently reporting to the Marquess of Salisbury upon the present state of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople expressed to his Lordship his regret that he was unable to record any improvement in the general situation.

The Ministry appointed after the fall of Kiamil Pasha had remained nominally in office, but appeared to exercise no control over the affairs of the Empire.

The accounts furnished from Asia Minor both to his Excellency and his colleagues showed that the ravages of the Kurds continued unchecked, and that while the perpetrators of the massacres remained unpunished, innocent Armenians were committed to prison on frivolous charges.

The Redifs, who had been called out, were quite undisciplined; the Treasury was unable to provide the necessary funds for their pay, and instead of restoring order it was more than likely that they would swell the ranks of the robbers who prey upon the unfortunate population.

After alluding to the situation of Zeitoun, his Excellency added that disturbances had already begun in Crete, and were threatened in Macedonia, and that it seemed in the highest degree probable that by the spring the Ottoman Government would find itself unable to cope with its difficulties.

Under these circumstances Sir P. Currie expressed his conviction, which would appear to be shared by his colleagues, that the disorder and discontent which reigned in all parts of the Empire and in all Departments of the Ottoman Administration, must, unless some means be found to remedy them, inevitably lead, before long, to a general breakdown of the machinery of Government, all the more that the Sultan appeared to be powerless to bring about any improvement, and that the men who immediately surrounded His Majesty were too corrupt and incapable to contribute to the task.

In such a condition of affairs it would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's

Ambassador, appear to be not only the right, but the duty of the Treaty Powers to do their utmost to aid in the task of restoring order, and to prevent disturbances, the continued recurrence of which might eventually expose Europe to serious risk, and which, in any case, could not fail to keep alive the general state of suspense with regard to Eastern affairs.

The considerations advanced by Sir P. Currie have engaged the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government, who consider them to be of the gravest character; and in instructing me to submit them to your Excellency, the Marquess of Salisbury desires me to state that he feels that the responsibility incumbent on the Powers is very great if they do not make some effort to amend the calamitous state of things prevailing in the Ottoman Empire.

His Lordship is convinced, from recent experience, that pressure on the part of only some of the Powers, if any one of them is known to be dissentient, has no effect whatever upon the Sultan's counsels. His Majesty, in such conditions, feels himself safe, and he will not give way, whilst, on the other hand, His Majesty has not yet resisted any advice heartily tendered to him by the unanimous voice of the Powers.

Under these circumstances the Marquess of Salisbury considers it of the highest importance that the Ambassadors of all the Treaty Powers at Constantinople should consult together, not only as regards the protection of foreigners in Turkey, to which their discussions in concert have hitherto been limited, but also as regards the general state of the Empire, with the object of devising some remedy, to be submitted to the consideration of their Governments, for the evils which undoubtedly exist, and which, if unchecked, may possibly become a source of common danger to Europe.

His Lordship therefore desires me to express to your Excellency his earnest hope that a full consideration of these views may induce the Imperial Government to give instructions in the above sense to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 89.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 21.)

(No. 9. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January* 21, 1896.

THE Emperor has been informed from St. Petersburgh that the Russian Government have been invited by that of Her Majesty to concert with them the measures to be taken with a view to introducing reforms into the Turkish Empire. His Majesty accordingly spoke to me last night on the subject, desiring me to inform your Lordship by telegraph that he is surprised that if Her Majesty's Government consider it necessary to take such a step they do not equally consult the Austro-Hungarian Government, who are anxious to act in strict concert with them in the East.

It is evident that the Emperor is much annoyed, and I was afterwards told by Count Goluchowski that an unpleasant effect has been produced here by the overture to St. Petersburgh and the neglect of Vienna.

No. 90.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January* 22, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 9, I have the honour to report that the explanations given by your Lordship to the Austrian Ambassador in London respecting the communication made by Her Majesty's Government to Russia have been telegraphed by his Excellency to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The original telegram containing the communication made to Count Goluchowski by Count Kapnist was read to me to-day by the former. From this telegram, it is clear that Prince Lobanoff believed that your Lordship had in contemplation an "enquête" of a formal and wide-reaching nature into the measures which it might be advisable to take with a view to preventing the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, and of discussing the general situation in Turkey.

Count Goluchowski says that a conference in which radical changes would be discussed is undoubtedly regarded with aversion by Prince Lobanoff, but that even the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople must in effect be in a position, without further instructions, to discuss the situation.

His Excellency concluded by assuring me that the language used to me by the Emperor was solely caused by the fact that your Lordship's message had been misunderstood by the Russian Government, which had greatly exaggerated its import.

No. 91.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January 22, 1896.*

THE Austrian squadron is now stationed at Syra, having been definitely withdrawn from the Levant.

No. 92.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 22, 1896.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 9 of the 21st instant, stating that the Emperor had informed you of a report which had reached him from St. Petersburgh that Her Majesty's Government had asked the Russian Government to concert with them measures for the introduction of reforms in Turkey, and that His Imperial Majesty had desired you to express to me his surprise that the Austro-Hungarian Government should not have been consulted at the same time.

Your Excellency will explain to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Imperial Majesty is under a complete misapprehension as to the nature of the communication made to the Russian Government. Her Majesty's Government have merely urged Prince Lobanoff to authorize the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to join his colleagues in discussing measures for the improvement of the present condition of the Turkish Administration.

M. de Nélidoff has not, like the other Ambassadors, received instructions permitting him to do so.

No. 93.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.**

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 23, 1896.*

A TELEGRAM from Constantinople is published this afternoon in the "Pall Mall Gazette," in which it is positively affirmed that Turkey and Russia have concluded an offensive and defensive alliance on the basis of the Treaty of Nukiar Skelessi, and that the ratifications have been exchanged at St. Petersburgh by Aarif Pasha, who was recently sent on a Special Mission by the Sultan to the Emperor of Russia.

No. 94.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 23, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 31 of the 13th instant, forwarding a letter addressed to you by Dr. Reynolds and Messrs. Cole and Knapp, American missionaries, in which they record their high appreciation of the ability

* Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 12).

and judgment shown by Mr. Hampson during the recent disturbances in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have read with much satisfaction this testimony to the value of Mr. Hampson's services.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 95.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 24, 1896, 12·5 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 15 of 23rd January, as to the reported alliance between Russia and Turkey.

Since 14th January when the statement was first made I have been making careful inquiries, but cannot obtain any confirmation of the truth of the story.

The information telegraphed by the correspondent of the "Pall Mall Gazette" came from a friend of Arif Pasha, who professes to have received it direct from him.

No. 96.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 24, 1896, 1·45 P.M.*

MR. CATONI, Acting Consul at Aleppo, telegraphs to-day that between 7,000 to 8,000 Armenians were killed in the last massacre at Ourfa according to the last accounts from various impartial sources.

Indescribable cruelties were committed by the Mahommedans, especially upon women and children.

No. 97.

Memorandum of the Contents of a Despatch from Prince Lobanow, dated St. Petersburgh, January 10 (22), 1896, in reply to a Note from Mr. Goschen of January 15.—(Communicated January 25.)

I CANNOT enter upon an examination of the views expressed in Mr. Goschen's note in regard to the Ottoman Ministry which succeeded Kiamil Pasha, the supposed powerlessness of the Sultan to put an end to the present complications, and the incapacity and corruption of the men by whom he is surrounded. These views, which are taken from the reports of Sir P. Currie, concern subjects which are matters of personal opinion. On the other hand, the picture drawn by the British Ambassador of the internal condition of the Ottoman Empire is, unfortunately, only too true; the continuation of the disorders in Asia Minor, the acts of brigandage committed by the Kurds, the want of discipline of the Redifs, the exhaustion of the Turkish treasury, all these facts are also reported to us by M. de Nélidoff and our officials on the spot. We do not, however, agree with the conclusions which the British Prime Minister draws from them. Lord Salisbury is of opinion that, in view of the dangers which such a state of things presents for Europe, it is her duty to seek a remedy for it, and that, for this purpose, the Powers should authorize their Representatives at Constantinople to *concert together on the general state of the Ottoman Empire.*

The confidential relations which have never ceased to exist between the Representatives at Constantinople have at all times allowed them to exchange their views, and it does not appear to us that any special instructions are necessary to enable them to continue to communicate their impressions to each other. Lord Salisbury's idea

evidently goes further, and, if I understand its true bearing, its consequence would be to produce a radical change in the position of the Powers at Constantinople as defined by the Treaties. The proposal appears to be for a direct interference in the internal affairs of Turkey, an interference which is distinctly forbidden by Article IX of the Treaty of Paris, and forbidden by implication by Article LXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

This consideration alone would suffice to make us hesitate to agree to Lord Salisbury's proposal; but even if we put aside our scruples on this head, we should have to consider what would be the practical results of such an infringement of the principles of European public law.

It is certain, as any one who knows Constantinople will admit, that the news of the official deliberations, or rather, to use the right term, the Conferences, which would be opened there on all the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire, would not fail to spread amongst the public without delay, and that they would be looked upon as evidence of the imposition of a kind of guardianship on the Sultan, which would, of course, very much weaken his authority. I do not suppose that it can be the intention of the British Government to produce such a result, but it is not the less certain, and would be sure to lead to fresh disturbances, and prepare the way for a series of surprises one more dangerous than the other.

Does this mean that we wish to keep aloof from what is happening in the East? Far from us be the thought. But we are of opinion that, in view of the good-will now being shown by the Sultan in the introduction of the reforms obtained from him, it is desirable to assist him in this arduous task; to give him the necessary time, and to increase his authority and prestige in the eyes of the different rival populations which are subject to his rule. We think that it is only by acting thus that the Powers can effectively assist in restoring tranquillity in the East. Such a line of conduct assuredly does not preclude the Representatives from addressing to the Sultan any friendly and well-meaning advice which they may be in a position to offer, without it being necessary to modify in any way the practice established at Constantinople. Moreover, there is nothing to prevent this advice being unanimous, and, in that case, in accordance with Lord Salisbury's wish, it will be all the more likely to be accepted.

No. 98.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 25, 10 P.M.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 25, 1896, 8·55 P.M.

ZEITOUN mediation.

English and Italian Consuls have arrived at Marash; Russian and French expected there to-day.

No. 99.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, January* 25, 1896.

I CAN hear nothing that confirms in any way the "Pall Mall" telegram alluded to in your Lordship's telegram No. 12.

A great *rapprochement* has lately taken place between Turkey and Russia, but my information all points to the fact that no alliance has been concluded between the two countries similar to that described.

No. 100.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 26.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 26, 1896, 11·55 A.M.

MR. CONSUL BARNHAM, who is now at Marash, telegraphed yesterday that although there are about 2,500 troops at Aintab, the situation is very critical, as the Mussulman population is watching for an opportunity and preparing for a final massacre. If our Mission to Zeitoun is unsuccessful, it is the general opinion that a massacre will occur at Marash as well as Aintab.

No. 101.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 15, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 834 of the 31st December, I have the honour to forward to your Lord herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum respecting the removal of the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum to Jerusalem.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 31, 1895.

I HAD the honour to inform your Excellency by telegram yesterday that Mgr. Ghévant Shishmanian, Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum, left suddenly for Jerusalem, by way of Trebizond.

In my despatch of the 8th November I referred to the unsatisfactory position of this Prelate, and since then, notwithstanding my endeavours to bring about an improvement in his relations with Shakir Pasha and the Vali, he has failed to gain their confidence.

On the contrary, these high officials affirm that they possess documentary proofs of his connection with revolutionary agents.

A strong opposition had also been formed among the leading Armenians who have sought to curry favour with the authorities by sacrificing their Archbishop, whose position was thus rendered untenable.

Mgr. Shishmanian's immediate departure, under strong escort, was ordered by Imperial Iradé, and he is to receive a Government pension whilst in exile.

His removal has caused no special commotion, whilst it has relieved the place of an "element of danger."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 102.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting generally on the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Damascus, December* 25, 1895.

WITH regard to the troubles in the Hauran, I venture to observe to your Excellency that I have had considerably difficulty in obtaining information, not so much about the actual events of the campaign, as about the ideas and intentions which animated the leaders on both sides.

My connection with the Druses has been absolutely cut off, and even had it been possible, it would hardly have been desirable to run the risk of maintaining a secret correspondence with them, seeing that the public mind is greatly inflamed against England and Englishmen as being the authors of these disorders. Indeed I do not think I am doing an injustice to the military staff, nor even to the Acting Mushir himself, in saying that they are so devoid of common sense as to be convinced that England has furnished arms to the Druses, and that I, myself (while on leave in England), was actively engaged in fomenting an outbreak in the Hauran.

As regards the Druse side of the question, I have had therefore to judge their desires and intentions by their actions and by the vague rumours which reached me from time to time.

The views of the Ottoman Government on the other hand are also not easy to discover, as the military and civil officials frequently disagree as to what is the best course of action, and the instructions received from Constantinople would appear to have been very contradictory, now urging on active measures against the Druses, now suggesting Commissions and peaceable arrangements. This hesitation may be due to appeals to the Palace made by the Lebanon Druses on behalf of their friends, but is more probably to be put down to the reports of the Governor-General, Osman Pasha, who has all along been thirsting for a chance of displaying his peculiar genius for making a composition on a monetary basis, his Excellency usually profiting largely by such transactions.

In view of the above facts your Excellency will perceive that I lie under considerable disability when I come to discuss the possibility of taking steps to put an end to this terrible loss of life and property; but though not absolutely certain of my ground, I have the honour to submit what I believe to be a correct exposition of the situation.

For many years past the Druses of the Hauran have used their independence to lord it over their Christian neighbours to carry on their feuds with the Bedouins and Haurani Moslems and to openly insult the Ottoman Government whenever the latter made any attempt to check them. On Hermon their treatment of the Christians has been most brutal, and they are the terror of that district. During the last few years roving bands have acted as banditti, and they have robbed on several occasions British travellers, once on the highway with violence, and several times at night. The Sheikhs are not in accord among themselves; but even had they been so, I doubt their willingness to put a stop to these disorders, as they are in reality nothing more than savage mountaineers.

With the single exception of the expedition of 1890, the Ottoman Government allowed the Druses to have their own way, even disarming the Ottoman soldiery who were stationed in the Hauran. Over and over, as I reported frequently, the Government displayed the most culpable weakness and impotence. The present Governor-General pretended to have obtained a victory over the Druses by taking large sums of money from them two years ago, but the only result was that the Druses imagined they would always be able to secure impunity by payment, if the worst came to the worst.

At length, however, the attack of the Druses on the Moslem villages of Kakheyl, Harak, and Nahdi in the month of October last, which resulted in the loss of many men and the massacre of some women and children, roused the Damascenes to fury, and the military authorities were at length allowed to make a punitive expedition. The inseparable concomitant of Turkish warfare, viz., the barbarities of their irregular allies (in this case Bedouins and Circassians) probably aroused the Druses to resistance, as I believe that previously they were frightened by the number of troops, and would not have attempted to defend themselves; and they were also doubtless encouraged by the appointment of the Commission to treat with them, and by the wretched incompetence of those responsible for the expedition.

However this may be, the Druses have since that time on every occasion been the aggressors and in my humble judgment it would be a sign of the most degrading

weakness if the Ottoman Government were to stop short of enforcing their submission. The Druses would not listen to advice, for they are no longer under the control of the Sheikhs, and are likely to continue a sort of guerilla warfare for a short time.

The latest news from the Hauran is to the effect that the troops have entered Suedah, the principal village of the Jabal Druse, without fighting, and there is a talk of *pourparlers* with a view to bring about a truce. It is possible that this is true, but it would go very hard with the Druses before they accepted the terms which I understand the Government have determined to impose. The Druses are to give up the guilty parties in the attack on Kakheyl and Harak. They are to surrender their arms, to accept conscription and taxation. These terms are so hard that either the Druses would accept them *pro formâ* in order to secure the withdrawal of the troops, and would afterwards refuse to abide by them, or else they will continue to resist. Disarmament would mean that the Druses would be at the mercy of their numerous enemies, for it would take more resources than the Government possess to reduce the Bedouin tribes to submission. What will probably happen will be that a compromise will be effected, and that matters will remain very much on their old footing, with the exception that the Druses will be for some time less contumacious than formerly on account of their heavy losses.

Should, however, the Ottoman Government really show determination contrary to its usual custom, and should it insist on the terms above mentioned being imposed and carried out, then there might be room for some sort of mediation in favour of the Druses, whose very existence would be threatened. With this exception I venture to suggest that no good end would be served by any external interference, and I trust your Excellency will concur with me in this opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 103.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting the disorganized state of the local finances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, December* 31, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the civil and military authorities are in great straits for money at this juncture.

During the past four months no employé has received any salary, with the exception, perhaps, of a few of the principal officials, and the monthly instalments to the Ottoman Bank in redemption of the debt, now amounting £ T. 32,000, have ceased to be paid.

In spite of this relief, however, there is not, I am informed, sufficient money in the Local Treasury to pay the sum of £ T. 20,000 per month which the Defterdar has received orders to hand over to the military authorities for the expenses of the Hauran expedition. The Defterdar has twice resigned recently, but his resignation was not accepted.

The Budget, as drawn up by the staff for the Hauran expedition, amounted to £ T. 123,000. As above stated, the Treasury was to pay £ T. 20,000 per month from the 1st November, but has only actually been able to afford about £ T. 30,000 up to this date. £ T. 18,000 obtained from the "Bedelié Nakdié Askerié" (the exemption tax paid by the soldiers who desire to pass immediately into the Reserve), which is usually

handed over to the Ottoman Bank for transmission to Constantinople, was taken for the same purpose. This sum was to have been reimbursed as other sums came in, but it appears that the Mushir so far declines to repay it. Besides these amounts, £T. 10,000 was requisitioned from the Agricultural Bank, which has left that institution without funds, and a havalé for £T. 30,000 on the Vilayets of Aleppo, Beyrout, Adana, and Smyrna was encashed.

So far, therefore, the military authorities have received about £T. 88,000, of which they are to refund £T. 18,000; but this sum is not nearly sufficient for the requirements of the expedition, especially if it be prolonged. The finances of the vilayet are hopelessly disorganized, and it is difficult to see from what source the necessary funds will be obtained, unless the Imperial Treasury grants aid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 104.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 16, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1021 of the 31st December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further details respecting the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Damascus, January 2, 1896.

Sir, WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to report that since their arrival at Sueidah the Turkish troops have made no further advance. Edhem Pasha and Memdouh Pasha are on bad terms, and spend most of their time quarrelling with each other. Repeated orders sent by the Acting Mushir to Edhem Pasha to act vigorously, have been totally disregarded on one pretext or another, the last being that he could not advance unless the troops received two months' pay.

I am informed that the Vali telegraphed yesterday to Constantinople for another General, stating that he would not be responsible for anything that might happen if this demand were not complied with.

Meanwhile, the mortality among the troops from sickness has increased; dysentery and fever have wrought terrible havoc, and it is reported on all hands that out of 6,000 Albanians 4,000 are dead or in hospital. It has been stated that cholera exists among the soldiers, but this is not correct, the prevailing illness being a bad form of dysentery.

The Ottoman authorities have published reports of various successes over the Druses, but with the exception of those which I have reported to your Excellency there is no foundation in fact for any of these statements, and even in those skirmishes the losses of the Druses have been, I believe, greatly exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 105.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting on a disturbance at Calejik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, January 10, 1896.

Sir, WITH reference to my telegram to your Excellency of the 30th ultimo reporting that at Calejik, a village some twelve hours' distant from Angora, a disturbance had occurred, in consequence of which a Major in command of a small force of cavalry had been sent there by the Vali, I now have the honour to report that the outbreak, which threatened to become a serious one, was quickly suppressed thanks to the gallantry and devotion displayed by Saledin Effendi, the Kaïmakam, and by some of the leading Turks.

During the night of the 29th ultimo three Armenians, who had been present at a neighbour's wedding, were passing through the streets with lanterns on their way to the house of another friend. A bekji stopped them, and ordered them to go home; they refused, and high words were exchanged. Early the following morning the bekji went about among the Turks complaining that the three Armenians had beaten him whilst in discharge of his duty. Towards 9 o'clock a crowd began to assemble in the bazaar, and shortly afterwards the Armenian shops were attacked. A Turk, named Cantarji Feryad, urged on the mob, waving a paper in the air and shouting that a Firman had been issued for one hour's pillage and slaughter of infidels. As soon as the attack commenced the Kaïmakam rushed down to the market accompanied by a few influential Moslems, among whom Colagasi Oglou Mustafa, Ghem Oglou Almaz Hallah, Ali Mollah Oglou Ahmed, and Kursh-i-din Oglou Ahmed were the more conspicuous; these men threw themselves among the combatants. An Armenian and a couple of Turks were struggling on the ground; Saledin Effendi sprang upon them and dragged them apart; other Turks who were striking at the Armenian with clubs struck the Kaïmakam heavy blows, calling him "Ghiour." He drove them back, however, with his fists, and, with his friends' assistance, finally managed to disperse the crowd from the market. In the meantime two shops belonging to Dédé Oglou Serkis and Mani Oglou Kirkor had been pillaged. The stock in trade of a Greek money-changer was also carried off, and the Saraf was dangerously wounded. One man only, an Armenian called Sizi Oglou Kirmis, was killed, but fourteen others were wounded, of whom five or six are in a very serious condition.

The crowd, after dispersing from the bazaar, reunited and hurried on towards the Armenian quarter. The Kaïmakam, however, was too quick for them; he ran with his followers in the same direction, but by another road, and succeeded in meeting and driving them back.

For some two months before the disturbance broke out the Turks had been threatening the Armenians. A trader, named Sar Ali, had been assiduously inciting the Moslems to attack the Armenians.

Prior to the arrival of the cavalry dispatched by Tewfik Pasha the whole force at Calejik consisted in a few police and bekjis, who were incapable, numerically, of checking any serious rioting.

I propose urging the Vali to send telegraphic instructions to Calejik for the arrest of the men Feryad and Sar Ali; and to suggest that the Turks and Armenians arrested in connection with the disturbance there should be sent to Angora for trial. And I would request him, subject to the approval of your Excellency, to establish a military

force there, temporarily, sufficient to keep the population in check, and assist, if necessary, the Kaïmakam, who is menaced by the lower order of Turks. I shall duly report to your Excellency the result of any measures taken in the matter by Tewfik Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 106.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 4th January, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Konieh reporting the institution of a Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Vice-Consul Keun to Sir P. Currie.

Excellency, *Konieh, January* 8, 1896.

I BEG to confirm my despatch *sub* No. 11.

The Sultan, on being instructed of the panic which occurred on the 27th ultimo, telegraphed to the Vali to institute a Commission of Inquiry.

This Commission is, of course, sitting, and many persons are examined, but it will never find out the real culprit (named in my despatch No. 10) who was permitted to leave this on the 28th ultimo, though it has been assured he left a deficit of some 1,000 piastres in the cash of the Gendarmerie corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. A. KEUN.

No. 107.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 43. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 16, 1896.

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive a letter from Her Majesty the Queen addressed to the Sultan, and at once applied for an audience in order to deliver the same personally to His Imperial Majesty.

The Sultan received me at 11 o'clock this morning, and on my handing to him the Royal letter inquired if I was aware of its contents. I replied in the affirmative, and gave him a Turkish translation which I had caused to be prepared.

After attentively perusing this document, the Sultan said that he was much gratified at receiving a letter from Her Majesty; he would send a written reply, but desired in the meantime to express his gratitude for Her Majesty's assurances of friendship towards himself and his country. He was naturally grieved, even more deeply than Her Majesty, by recent events in the Asiatic provinces of his Empire. His horror of bloodshed was well-known; for instance, he almost invariably commuted the death sentences passed on criminals. He had done all in his power to put an end to the distressing disturbances

which had occurred. Large bodies of troops had been called out at a great sacrifice, and repeated and stringent orders been issued for the restoration of tranquillity. He trusted his efforts had been crowned with success, for no further news of disorders had been received, and the country seemed pacified everywhere except at Zeitun. The troops there were suffering much from the inclemency of the weather, but, as he had accepted the mediation of the Powers in order to make terms with the Zeitounlis, he trusted that there also peace would soon be restored and no further trouble occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 108.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 16, 1896.

ON the occasion of the audience granted to me by the Sultan, which I have reported in my immediately preceding despatch, His Majesty spoke of the Armenian reforms proposed by the three Powers which he had accepted through Saïd Pasha and Munir Bey. Recent events had naturally delayed their execution, but now that the country was quiet, he hoped it would be possible to put them into force. He had caused a register to be drawn up which would contain a daily record of the reforms which were already executed, those which were under discussion, and those which presented some difficulty. One copy of this register was in his own possession, one with his First Secretary, and one with the Porte. He had given the most stringent orders both to Tahsin Bey and his Ministers that no time should be lost in completing the reforms he had granted.

In reply, I referred to a representation made some time ago by the British, French, and Russian Embassies, both to the Porte and to His Majesty's First Secretary, pointing out the uselessness of the Commission of Control for the Armenian provinces in its present form and with its present functions.

I reminded His Imperial Majesty that the three Embassies had asked that a new President should be appointed; that the instructions given to Shakir Pasha should be communicated to them; that a Christian adjoint to Shakir Pasha should be dispatched to his post; and that the powers and duties of the Commission should be enlarged, so as to make it in reality what it was in name, a Commission of Inspection and Control. Hitherto, I said, it had had no power of control or initiative whatever; it was merely a department of the Ministry of the Interior. In fact, it was not the body contemplated under the engagement entered into by His Majesty with the three Embassies. With a view of bringing it more into harmony with those engagements, the three Ambassadors had asked that the Commission should have the right of corresponding directly with the High Commissioner and the provincial authorities.

His Majesty replied that Zihni Pasha, Governor of Aleppo, had been appointed President of the Commission, and would come to Constantinople and enter upon his duties as soon as the arrival of a new Governor relieved him of his present post.

With regard to the other points which I had mentioned, His Majesty said that the Porte would reply to the representations of the Embassies, but he added that he thought it a very serious matter to make the Commission of Control independent of the Ministry of the Interior. How, His Majesty asked, could one independent administration exist within another? He had accepted the reforms, and desired to see them executed in their entirety, but it remained to be seen whether the demands of the three Embassies were in conformity with the reforms as accepted. In any case, however, the Embassies must apply to the Porte, which alone was competent to discuss and decide the question.

His Majesty then said that he heard that the Armenian Patriarch had sent a paper to the Embassies full of calumnies invented by ill-disposed persons, to the effect that numbers of Christians had been forced to embrace Islam, and that churches had been turned into mosques. He trusted that such misstatements would not be believed.

I replied that, without calling in question His Majesty's good intentions, the reports of British Consular officers unfortunately left no doubt that great numbers of Christians had been obliged to become Moslems to save their lives.

His Majesty said he was astonished at such reports, and believed they were the direct contrary of the truth. He inquired where these forced conversions had taken place, and I replied in the Vilayets of Kharput, Bitlis, Van, and Aleppo. He again expressed great astonishment, and referred to certain correspondence between the Porte and the Vilayet of Erzeroum, from which it would be seen that some Armenian villages had proposed to embrace Islam, and that this proposition had been refused. The First Secretary could show me this correspondence. His Majesty hoped that all reports in a contrary sense would be received with caution, and submitted to an impartial and unprejudiced examination.

I replied that as the Representative of a Power which was friendly to Turkey, and which had endeavoured to exercise an impartial judgment on Turkish affairs, I had taken the utmost pains to ascertain the truth as to recent events in the Asiatic provinces. I regretted to say that no doubt was left upon my mind that His Majesty was being deceived by the local authorities; was he, for instance, aware that, according to official statistics, 900 people had been massacred at Ourfa at the end of last month?

The Sultan replied he had heard there had been an affray there, and that some lives had been lost on both sides. According to his reports, by far the larger proportion of those killed in the villages of Asia Minor were Moslems, and the Armenians used dynamite bombs and arms of new pattern.

I said that His Majesty was woefully deceived, and that for every Moslem killed at least 100 Armenians had fallen. I suggested that the local authorities should be instructed, as a check on their statements, to furnish His Majesty with a nominal list of the Moslems slain. Had a single person, I asked, been punished for these massacres, in which thousands of His Majesty's subjects had perished? The Sultan replied that Commissions had been inquiring into what had occurred; no doubt the aggressors were being tried, and would be eventually condemned. I pressed His Majesty for a more definite answer, but could elicit nothing but a vague statement that he understood some persons were to be held responsible.

Seeing that His Majesty evaded my questions, and even endeavoured to prevent them from being translated to him, I made a final appeal, in which I implored him not to remain under any illusion, but to consider the gravity of the question. I told him he was hoodwinked by his agents who failed to execute their instructions, and exculpated themselves with false reports. I begged him to take steps to learn the truth, and said that if he wilfully closed his eyes to the crimes which were committed under his rule, all further discussion was useless. As the Representative of a friendly Power, I desired to warn him for the last time of the danger which threatened himself and his Empire; the consequences of the present crisis might be postponed for a time, but, sooner or later, they must inevitably be felt. This was my last appeal; if His Majesty declined to listen to it I must desist from all attempts to assist him. The reports which I had received from the provinces were now in the hands of my Government, and would in due course be laid before Parliament.

His Majesty reflected for some time, and then said that only one course remained for him. He would send a new Commission to report on what had occurred, and to punish the guilty. He suggested, at first, a judicial Commission of ten members, but I demurred, saying I thought it a mistake to name a large body composed of petty officials, none of whom would command respect. Could not His Majesty select one high functionary in whom all Europe would have confidence, or perhaps three—two Moslems and one Christian—to inquire into the facts and punish the guilty? This would enable His Majesty to free himself of some of the responsibility which was thrown upon him.

His Majesty said he thought three or more honest and energetic officials with full powers would be better than one man. He could not, at the moment, think of any single person to whom so important a mission could be confided; high rank did not, unfortunately, always imply that the possessor was a good agent. The Commission should, His Majesty thought, be independent, and not be bound to report to the Sublime Porte or take instructions from it, for such reference to the central authority must occasion loss of time, and whatever the composition of the Commission might be, its first duty would be to enlighten him as speedily as possible on the facts of the case, and to punish the guilty. He would consult the Porte, and inform me of the decision taken in the matter, which, in the meantime, he begged me to regard as a secret. I entirely agreed with His Majesty, that any Commission to be of use must have extensive powers delegated to it, and be able to act independently. His Majesty then said that the *lex talionis*, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," was a precept of Islam, and that, therefore, obedience to his religion as well as the dictates of his own conscience made him desirous that the guilty

should be punished. The Moslem Law did not approve of distinctions between Moslems and Christians; for instance, if a Moslem who had borrowed both from a Christian and from a Moslem died without discharging his debt, his family were bound to pay first the Christian and then the Moslem creditor. He mentioned this in order to show that the property of Christians was protected by the Law of Islam even more than that of Moslems.

I replied that the religion of Mohammed was highly respected in England, and that no one attributed the crimes that had been committed to its teachings. I expressed my satisfaction at His Majesty's promise that he would sincerely endeavour to ascertain the real nature of the events which had occurred in Anatolia, and of the causes which had produced them. I added that if I had spoken strongly I had done so as a sincere friend, and as the Ambassador of a country which had always desired to befriend His Majesty's Empire. I had felt that in the present critical state of affairs it was necessary to speak plainly.

His Majesty said he quite understood that my observations were prompted by a desire to render him assistance, and the audience terminated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 109.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Pera, January 21, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Barnum, a missionary at Kharput, reporting that forced conversions to Islam have taken place on a large scale in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE

Inclosure in No. 109.

Rev. H. Barnum to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Kharput, January 2, 1896.*

SINCE the death of Mr. Boyajian, I have written weekly to the Consul at Erzeroum, and I presume that he has informed you of the general condition here. The most serious thing, perhaps, has been the Moslem crusade. It is estimated that some 15,000 or 20,000 have professed a change of faith through fear, and many have been killed because they were unwilling to renounce their faith. I have not had a convenient opportunity to speak to the Vali about this; but yesterday I saw the Alay Bey, and he promised to ask the Vali to send out an order forbidding this crusade.

The reign of terror continues here. The authorities give positive assurance that nothing more will occur, but they were equally positive in their assurances before the trouble occurred, so nobody trusts their word. This, along with the awful destitution, constitutes a condition that has seldom had a parallel in history.

No. 110.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 53.)

Constantinople, January 23, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul Acting at Erzeroum, transmitting a list of houses pillaged and persons killed in the Erzeroum district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, January 7, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a list of houses and shops pillaged and of persons killed in the Vilayet of Erzeroum during the recent disorders, showing a total of 11,173 buildings plundered and 2,855 persons killed.

These figures have been compiled from Armenian sources, and are probably somewhat exaggerated, but, making allowances for the details still wanting from many places, the aggregate is as near the truth as the difficulties attending the collection of information in this country enables one to get.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

LIST of Houses and Shops plundered, and of Persons killed in the Vilayet of Erzeroum during the Disorders of October and November 1895.

District.	Town or Village.	Number of Houses or Shops pillaged.	Number of Persons killed.	Number of Churches pillaged.	Remarks.
—	Erzeroum	1,016	400	..	(316 houses and 700 shops). 150 wounded.
Erzeroum Plain	Arzoti	35	..	..	
	Dinarkom	35	..	..	
	Umudim	70	2	..	Priest among the killed.
	Kevakhor	40	..	..	
	Kratchik	75	..	..	Several wounded.
	Girdjingos	25	..	..	
	Tilnik	110	3	..	
	Euzneh	100	5	..	
	Gharoz	75	4	..	
	Badisben	25	..	..	A few wounded.
	Pougour	35	..	..	
	Ilidje	70	..	..	
	Sungaritch ..	20	..	..	
	Abulkindi	15	..	..	
	Salatzor	10	3	..	
	Terkouni	30	2	..	

District.	Town or Village.	Number of Houses or Shops pillaged.	Number of Persons killed.	Number of Churches pillaged.	Remarks.
Erzeroum Plain (*continued*)	Kong	50	1	..	Priest killed.
	Erdadsor	25	..	..	
	Khatchka Vank ..	15	..	1	Monastery plundered and one priest wounded.
	Arshouni	35	..	..	
	Seugoutli	35	..	..	
	Mudourghé	..	..	..	These villages escaped plunder by payment of sums varying from 50*l.* and upwards.
	Saouktchermouk ..	..	..	..	
	Shick-Keui	..	..	..	
	Kan	..	..	..	
	Tchiftlik	..	..	..	
	Gez	..	..	..	
Terdjan ..	Mamakhatoun ..	21	4	..	(6 houses and 15 shops plundered.) A few converted to Islamism.
	Vartik	(?)	6	..	All the houses pillaged. Male inhabitants converted. Church turned into mosque.
	Eress	(?)	(?)	..	All the houses pillaged. All killed. Two girls abducted.
	Kourikol	(?)	1	..	Priest killed.
	Pakaridj	200	15	..	Male inhabitants converted to save their lives.
	Piriz	120	30	..	
	Khenzeri	30	(?)	..	Half the inhabitants killed.
	Karin Pertak ..	[illegible]	(?)	..	All the inhabitants killed.
	Poulk	80	8	..	Male inhabitants converted to save their lives.
	Pirnik	80	..	..	
	Mantara	15	..	..	
	Astaghikom ..	15	..	..	
	Katchikogloukom ..	15	..	..	
	Katchak	60	..	..	
	Vidjan	45	..	..	
	Poun	10	..	..	
	Aghater	40	..	..	
	Dzaghari	60	..	..	
	Herani	15	..	..	
	Tchankdji	15	..	..	
	Abrank	40	..	..	
	Sarikaya	80	..	..	
	Kotour	130	..	..	A few, including a priest, converted to save their lives.
	Koumlar	30	28	..	
	Shekhnotz	70	..	..	
	Khatchkegh ..	50	..	..	
	Arpaverek	[illegible]	..	..	
	Karakoulnk ..	..	..	..	These villages escaped plunder by payment of sums varying from 50*l.* and upwards.
	Mento	..	..	..	
	Haghek	..	..	..	
	Kourikol	..	..	..	All male inhabitants converted to save lives and property.
Erzingian ..	Erzingian	510	130	..	150 wounded, one ban of 60 rooms pillaged.
	Karatoush	25			
	Meghuss	215			
	Zakkegh	6			
	Akrek	95			
	Rum Akrak	15			
	Erghan	115			
	Galinaik	75			
	Gallidja	115			
	Mahmoudli	135			
	Tadjrak	15			
	Kara Kilisseh ..	8			
	Petaritch	55			The estimated total of persons killed in these villages of the Erzingian caza is 350. The 9 churches belonged to monasteries which were burnt after being plundered.
	Aglelja Kend ..	15	350	9	
	Pirvan	115			
	Tchiftlik Ulya ..	115			
	" Sufla ..	55			
	Karadighin ..	15			
	Zater	6			

District.	Town or Village.	Number of Houses or Shops pillaged	Number of Persons killed.	Number of Churches pillaged.	Remarks.
Erzingian (*continued*)	Meteni	215			
	Harabedi	15			
	Phuki	15			
	Sourbhan	15			
	Ghergeli	55			
	Khenzorik ..	215			
	Mulla Keui ..	45			
	Aurin	15			
Kuzitchan ..	Aboun Hussein ..	20			
	Agh Shenliki and Mezreh	30			
	Hassan Ghazi ..	20			
	Terkini	25			
	Hakstone	80	100	..	(Estimated total of killed.)
	Dinek	60			
	Rabat	10			
	Tanzi	35			
	Gundi	20			
	Maghatchour ..	15			
	Sourbahan	15			
Kemakh ..	Pakaritch Uliya ..	60			
	,, Soufla ..	120			
	Sakuri	60			
	Hori	30			
	Marik	200			
	Karmeh	30	300	5	(Estimated totals.)
	Tortan	80			
	Tavikmer	20			
	Gogar	30			
	Kardak	60			
	Uskonbourt ..	100			
Keghi ..	Shen	18	..	..	
	Amaridj	25	..	..	
	Arness	35	..	..	
	Teherma	25	..	..	
	Melikan	40	..	..	
	Azaghpert	100	..	..	
	Seghenk	25	..	..	
	Horor	100	..	..	
	Teharikash ..	25	..	..	
	Aghvenak	50	..	..	
	Halsteam	55	1	1	
	Dinek	30	..	1	
	Djebakdeh	45	..	1	
	Arkjemout	15	..	1	
	Ghaza	30	..	..	
	Kaupis	220	11	1	
	Seghévil	100	3	1	
	Hendit	30	..	..	About 70 men were wounded in the Keghi district, and several women and girls were abducted.
	Tchaadoji	200	..	..	
	Kidour	55	..	1	
	Tehan	35	1	1	
	Sakotzor	45	..	..	
	Abank	20	..	..	
	Khaskar	35	..	1	
	Khatchlou	10	..	..	
	Sharouk	25	..	1	
	Kazitchabouk ..	25	..	1	
	Tchiftlik	45	..	1	
	Lak	15	..	..	
	Boutmar	20	42	..	
	Yenikeui	15	13	..	
	Khert	15	..	..	
	Karaboulagh ..	10	..	..	
	Khozim	80	25	..	One woman among the killed.
	Tchaairan	100	..	..	All stock carried off.
	Haramik	50	..	..	
	Kurakempru ..	30	5	..	
	Douman	15	..	..	Sheep carried off.
	Matouf	20	..	..	

District.	Town or Village.	Number of Houses or Shops pillaged.	Number of Persons killed.	Number of Churches pillaged.	Remarks.
Keghi (*continued*)	Shafadin	10	3	..	
	Kaghkik	30	5	..	
	Khalitchavoush ..	20	..	..	
Khiniss ..	Yilpiss	40	..	..	
	Hoross	35	..	..	
	Guvandouk ..	..	..	..	These villages escaped plunder by the payment of 200*l.* to the Kurdish Chief, Tadjeldin.
	Keratchoban ..	..	..	..	
	Krimkaya	..	..	..	
	Bakhir	..	..	..	
	Salvorik	..	..	..	
Passin ..	Djenason	30	5	..	
	Dadi	75	7	..	
	Alidjekrek	110	10	..	
	Yuevenn	67	12	..	
	Tavonts	35	6	..	
	Harsiskar	45	8	..	
	Gherdabaz	70	13	..	
	Keuprukeui ..	83	15	..	
	Ekabad	75	23	..	
	Testan	63	9	..	
	Hertef	130	18	..	
	Medjeli	15	3	..	
	Todoveran	..	..	..	600 sheep and 16 somars of wheat carried off.
	Yaghan	..	..	..	400 sheep carried off.
	Komatsor	..	..	..	20 somars of wheat carried off.
	Ishkhen	..	..	..	Escaped plunder by payment of 30*l.*
	Hassankaleh ..	..	8	1	Monastery pillaged and burnt; one man wounded.
Bayazid ..	Mollahsulerman ..	100	2	..	Six men wounded.
	Tchilkani	30	..	..	
	Yeghentepeh ..	40	2	..	Two men wounded.
	Khoshian	15	..	..	
	Khasdour	..	..	..	Escaped plunder by payment of 30*l.*
	Baiburt (town) ..	500	400	(?)	Number of wounded unknown.
	,, (caza) ..	900	300	(?)	(Estimated numbers.)
Tortoum ..	Rabat	25	..	..	
	Verinkegh	15	..	..	
	Shipek	40	3	..	
	Norshen	..	..	..	Escaped plunder by payment of money to local Bey, Bahri.
	Total ..	11,173	2,855	39	

No. 111.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 23, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul Acting at Erzeroum transmitting a list of the number of houses burnt and persons killed in the Kharput district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, January 8, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to send your Excellency a list of the houses burnt and of the persons killed during the late disorders in the district of the American Mission at Kharput, which includes a part of the Diarbekir Vilayet, and according to which over 8,000 houses and shops were burnt after being plundered, and over 15,000 persons killed.

The same remarks, as to the accuracy of these figures, made in my preceding despatch concerning similar details for the Erzeroum district, apply in this case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

LIST of Houses burnt and of Persons killed in the District of the American Mission at Kharput.

Town or Village.	Number of Armenian Houses.	Number of Houses and Shops burnt.	Number of Persons killed.	Remarks.
Adish	310	310	257	13 women among the killed.
Aivose	(?)	..	70	
Aghansi	47	1	12	
Arabkir	4,530	4,200	4,000	4,700 houses and 500 shops burnt.
Bizmishen	270	230	23	190 houses wholly burnt, and 90 partially.
Chamishgesek	..	..	..	Spared.
Mansa	(1)	..	16	
Kutturbul	100	50	(?)	Many killed.
Karabash	200	..	(?)	
Chemikoosh	1,000	103	680	
Chermook	300	300	(?)	Nearly all killed.
Diarbekir	(?)	(?)	2,000	
Eghin	1,000	..	..	Purchased exemption.
Gamurghab	200	32	7	
Garmuri	45	..	..	Plundered.
Hekh	125	30	62	
Hoocboo	300	263	30	
Haboosi	180	90	75	
Hulakegh	150	11	16	
Havar	230	200	110	
Hisenik	650	9	260	
Ichmek	200	22	60	10 houses and 12 shops burnt
Komk	300	(?)	(?)	Very bad; no details.
Malatia	1,500	1,000	5,000	Also 500 Turks killed.
Ozoonoba	100	..	65	
Péri	400	..	8	
Palu	400	..	1,580	
Kapou Achmaz	90	75	..	
Khosmat	160	80	..	
Murkhi	100	90	..	
Shinaz	80	45	..	
Severek	350	..	750	
Sarakenish	80	..	6	
Sheikhuji	..	..	..	Purchased exemption.
Tadem	300	250	270	
Uppermazereh	20	11	..	
Amberga	40	..	150	
Shepik	85	65	37	
Aghun	40	..	12	
Vakshen	40	10	32	
Enitsik	35	..	..	No details.
Kushneh	40	..	..	Ditto.

Town or Village.	Number of Armenian Houses.	Number of Houses and Shops burnt.	Number of Persons killed.	Remarks.
Mashir	90	25	3	
Samurga	32	..	55	
Anchartee	90	..	..	No details.
Gemjee	50	50	..	
Mourenic	10	40	..	
Bedatil	30	27	..	
Aznood	70	30	6	
Baghun	130	110	80	
Eskimalatia	20	..	(?)	All male inhabitants above 5 years old killed.
Heghi	250	..	40	
Korpé	250	230	32	
Perchenj	250	..	30	
Total	15,339	8,049	15,831	

N.B.—In addition to the above there were over 130 villages plundered from which no details have been received.

No. 112.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 55.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting that the Redifs are to be entirely disbanded gradually.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with orders received from Constantinople yesterday, the remaining Redifs are to be entirely disbanded by degrees. The two battalions in this were discharged to-day.

Not only is it recognized that there is no longer any need of their services, but the want of funds for their maintenance has had to be taken into consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 113.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, reporting the arrival in the neighbourhood of Mecca of the Ateyba tribe of Bedouins for the purpose of taking part in the expedition against the Harb tribe.

A telegram from Mr. Alban, dated the 17th January, states, however, that it is

reported that the Ateyba tribe have returned to their homes, and that it now seems probable that the expedition will not take place unless undertaken by regular troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jeddah, January 5, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Excellency of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that up to the present time about 2,500 men with about 1,000 camels and about 500 horsemen, all of the Ateyba tribe, have arrived in the neighbourhood of Mecca for the purpose of taking part in the expedition against the Harb tribe, which has so long been announced. It is reported that further contingents of men from the Huzeil and Jehadli tribes, and of camels from the Koreish tribe are expected. The Grand Shereef is said to be most anxious to induce his nephew the Shereef Ali Pasha (son of the Shereef Abdillah Pasha), who enjoys a reputation for bravery and military talent among the Bedouins, to accompany the expedition, but he, like Avon-bin-Nassir, a cousin of the Grand Shereef (who has retired to Taif), appears unwilling to take any part in the operations, and is said to be feigning sickness. It is probable that the Grand Shereef will himself take the command, and will be accompanied by the Shereef Zeid Ibn Fawaz, his cousin.

Very few camels now arrive at Jeddah, as many have been requisitioned for the expedition. Supplies have been sent from here to Mecca, but I am informed that the quantity is quite insufficient, and that no money has been given to the Bedouins who will take part in the operations.

It is reported that large numbers of the Harb tribe are collected in the Asfan district, where they are watching events. They are said to be badly supplied with provisions and ammunition, and are not likely to await an attack unless, perhaps, they attempt some stratagem.

No outrages have as yet been reported either on the road from Jeddah to Mecca, or on the Yambo–Medina road. The roads from Jeddah and Mecca to Medina are, however, quite unsafe, and are practically closed, all travellers bound for the latter place being compelled to go by sea to Yambo, and thence to Medina.

His Excellency the Vali still continues to withhold from the Consular Corps here all information as to his plans or proceedings, while the Kaïmakam here professes to be absolutely ignorant of what is taking place in Mecca. My French colleague recently wrote to the Vali asking to be informed of the object of the numerous arrests of Bedouins made here, but the Vali did not reply to his letter.

The walls of the town have now been repaired. The restrictions on the free egress of Europeans from the town, even to the military parade ground, without a special permission and escort, are still maintained, although the Kaïmakam has manifested the utmost courtesy in the matter, and has endeavoured to avoid the appearance of in any way interfering with the liberty of the foreign Consuls. I understand that these restrictions, which practically render the Europeans prisoners within the town, are to be permanent.

I have the honour to add that the stone bench erected by the Europeans, which was the scene of the attack on the Consuls, has recently been completely destroyed by the Turkish troops. The Kaïmakam states that the soldiers removed the stones of which it was built in order to make use of them for the purpose of securing their tents, but it is more probable that it was destroyed by his own order with the object of removing any inducement to Europeans to visit the spot, and of effacing a visible memorial of the murderous outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 114.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Pera, January 23, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 999 of the 24th December and No. 46 of the 21st January, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum forwarding a Memorandum containing additional details respecting the forced conversion of Armenians to Islam in the Kharput district.

I have ascertained from Mr. Cumberbatch that most of the details were obtained from the inhabitants of the places where the occurrences took place.

I am communicating Mr. Cumberbatch's Memorandum to the First Secretary of the Sultan, and am inviting inquiry into the alleged facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum containing additional details concerning the forced conversions of Armenians to Mahommedanism in the Kharput district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Memorandum.

Forced Conversions to Islamism in Kharput district. Additional details.

Garmuri.—Garmuri was spared by the intervention of the Aghas, but all the inhabitants were compelled to accept Islamism. The church was turned into a mosque, which the Armenians were made to attend and learn the prayers. A priest, 70 years old, was tied to a post and circumcised in public.

Choonkoosh.—At Choonkoosh, in the midst of the confusion of massacring and pillaging, the Turks led the Christians to a mosque, where they were required, in order to save their lives, to declare themselves Moslems. Four days afterwards the Kurds returned, and many more became converts, and, as in other places, the Imams now bury their dead and perform their marriage ceremonies.

Aivose.—At Aivose all the surviving male inhabitants have been converted and circumcised. The village priest was made to mount the roof of his church and give the Mussulman call to prayer. He was then killed at the church door.

Husenik.—At Husenik hundreds pronounced the formula to save their lives.

Gumush Maden.—At Gumush Maden, under the auspices of a Sheikh from Kharput, all the Armenians who had not fled during the disorders were taken to the mosque and made to declare their adherence to Islamism. A few days later the rites were performed on fifty-seven men. In the case of twenty-four the ceremony was postponed till warmer weather, as they possessed no beds.

Tadem.—At Tadem the inhabitants were surrounded in their church and told to accept Mahommedanism or die. They all accepted, and were taken into Turkish houses for three or four days for protection, but those who could not escape to other places were afterwards killed by the Kurds and their village was burnt. Several died from the effects of circumcision.

Aghun.—At Aghun ten Protestants and two Gregorians were killed for refusing the new faith, the rest saved their lives and property by apostatising.

Vakshen.—At Vakshen the surviving male inhabitants were converted to save their lives.

Ainetsik.—At Ainetsik, Mardiros, a Bible colporteur was the first to be called on to renounce his faith and save his life, but he refused. His hands were first cut off whilst held out in prayer and he was then killed. The Protestant chapel was turned into a mosque.

Mashkir.—At Mashkir the Cadi and the Mudir were present during the ceremony of circumcision, and their zapticks acted as sponsors for some of the Armenians. The Turkish flag was hoisted on the church which was being used as a mosque. Even women and children were forced to learn the new tenets and to pay their teacher.

(There were nine to ten more villages in the Arabkir district, to which the four foregoing belong, similarly treated. After the plundering, burning, and massacring, all the male survivors were circumcised.)

Kolej.—At Kilise, near Farkin, the preacher and eleven other Protestants were killed for not apostatising; the survivors have mostly accepted Islamism.

Redvan.—At Redvan (Diarbekir) all the inhabitants, as well as the refugees from other villages, were compelled to accept the Mussulman faith, and are being taught the new forms of worship by a Sheikh. The priest and two others were killed for not accepting conversion.

Tcharsandjak.—A Protestant official of the Tobacco Régie in the Tcharsandjak Caza confirms what has already been reported as to the wholesale conversions in that region. He adds that officials and soldiery joined in the crusade.

Erzeroum, January 6, 1896.

Addenda.

Husenik.—One of the priests of the village of Husenik, 1 mile from Kharput, accepted Islamism through fear and attends the mosque.

Another priest refused, and paid the penalty of recusancy. He was subjected to a disgusting mutilation.

Surani.—The head priest of the Surami monastery, 5 miles from Kharput, was cut in pieces and his body left to be eaten by dogs.

Tadem.—The priest of Tadem was killed under circumstances of great indignity.

Sheikhhaji.—The Protestant pastor of Sheikhhaji was dragged from his sick bed and forcibly circumcised.

Erzeroum, January 7, 1896.

No. 115.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 60.)
Pera, January 23, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus on the subject of the campaign in the Hauran.

It would appear from this despatch that the rumoured defeat of the Druses with a loss of 1,200 men, as reported by Mr. Drummond Hay on the 23rd December, from Turkish sources, was false.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, January* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the superior officers of the troops in the Hauran have made peace with the Druses. The terms of this arrangement are at present not well known, but it is stated that the Druses have agreed to give up the rifles they have taken at different times from the soldiers, and to pay taxes with arrears. With regard to the question of arms, it is very doubtful whether the Druses will ever be induced to surrender their means of defence. Hitherto only fifty Martini rifles have been collected, and I conclude that when a certain number have been recovered, the authorities will declare themselves satisfied. As regards taxes, the Druses are ready to pay a considerable sum, and they have already paid 38,000 silver medjidiehs to Edhem Pasha, Memdouh Pasha, and Ismaïl Bey, Chief of Staff. This sum, which was of the nature of a bribe, the military authorities propose to count as part payment of arrears of taxes; and they have submitted to the Vali a "Mazbata," declaring that the Druses have supplied corn to the troops to the value of 8,000 napoleons, and recommending that this sum should be put to their credit. The Vali, who is enraged beyond measure at the turn affairs have taken, referred the "Mazbata" to the Administrative Council, instructing the Council in a spirit of mockery that each member should give his opinion separately.

The above gives a résumé of the action of the military authorities, but the Vali on the other hand declares that no conclusion has been reached. His Excellency has been all along at loggerheads with the military, and has been much embittered by the action of the Imperial Government in addressing their instructions direct to the Acting Mushir. He has done all in his power to weaken the hands of Omar Pasha, and even went so far as to instigate certain Moslem Notables, through the medium of Bedri Pasha, Mutessarif of the Hauran, to represent to the Porte that the expedition had been a failure, that they had suffered much at the hand of the Druses, that no punishment had been meted out to the latter, and, finally, that they hoped they would not be compelled to appeal to a foreign Power to assist them. I obtained information with regard to the contents of this "Mazbata" from a most excellent source, and I am assured that it contained the veiled threat with which it is reported as concluding.

The Vali's dissatisfaction with the present condition of affairs is also doubtless due to his not having been offered a sufficient share of the plunder, and I presume that the end will not be reached until his Excellency has been satisfied. Meanwhile the tension between civil and military is acute, and reports of the dismissal of the Vali and of the acting Mushir are continually put about. I have no doubt that the Vali is doing his utmost to procure the dismissal of Omar Pasha.

If the matter is now brought to a termination, it offers a most lamentable commentary on the Ottoman Government and the efficiency of the army. With a force outnumbering the Druses in a proportion of two-and-a-half to one, with artillery and cavalry, after considerable expenditure of money, after much vaunting of their intentions of bringing the Druses to their knees, the final result is that the troops have not attained a single solid success, but have lost in killed and wounded more men than the Druses (the Mejdel affair not being a fight with regular troops), have lost by illness probably a sixth part of their strength, and that eventually the authorities have made a composition utterly disgraceful to the Government. The Moslems of Damascus felt this acutely, and are proportionately depressed or enraged.

I venture, however, to observe that such a result is not to be wondered at, when one considers the miserable ignorance and incompetence of the officers, and the utter disorganization which exists in all military departments. I read much of the increased efficiency of the army since the last war. The only thing to be said is that the improvement has not penetrated as far as Damascus. It is beyond question that the army (as far as this district is concerned) has deteriorated in every particular, not less than almost every other Department of State, during the last fifteen years. The inefficiency of the subalterns, and the gross ignorance, incapacity, and carelessness displayed by the superior officers, is perfectly incredible. There is no spirit of duty, no emulation, no energy visible anywhere. Utter neglect of every precaution, absolute carelessness as to the lives of the soldiers, and the most complete indifference to everything except their own comfort and the filling of their pockets, characterize the whole staff. This army

corps could not hope to face with the smallest prospect of success a well-equipped European force of a quarter of its strength.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 116.

Sir H. Wyndham to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 18, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that General von der Goltz Pasha, who for some years past has been an honorary Aide-de-camp of the Sultan, and instructor at the Military College at Constantinople, arrived here this week on his way back there to make arrangements for his final departure, he having resigned his appointment in Turkey, having been given the command of a division of the German army.

Von der Goltz Pasha had the honour of dining at Court on the 15th instant, and was entertained at luncheon by the Prime Minister, M. Sturdza, and I understand that on both occasions he expressed his opinions freely as to the Sultan, and as to the condition of the Turkish Empire.

Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter, who had known the General intimately at Constantinople, had some conversation with him, when he said that the Turks were by no means in such a feeble state as was generally supposed, and that they were quite capable of suppressing any movement in any part of the Empire. Questioned by Colonel Trotter as to rumoured complicity of the Sultan in the Armenian massacres, he said that the authorities might have prevented them everywhere, as they had done at Angora, but that he suspected that they had been given to understand that their allowing them to take place would find favour in the eyes of their Imperial Master. General von der Goltz also told Colonel Trotter that his retirement, for which he had long been wishing, had been facilitated by the Sultan having become somewhat suspicious of him, owing to some Turks who were supposed to entertain liberal ideas having been seen at his house. He also remarked that the Emperor William's congratulatory telegram to President Krüger, which had been generally approved of in Germany, had been in some measure actuated by his disapproval of the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Turkey.

My Italian colleague told me on the evening of the 16th instant, that he had heard that the General had expressed himself in much the same sense either at the Palace or at M. Sturdza's, viz., that the Sultan, without directly ordering the massacres of Armenians, had probably given his *entourage* at Yildiz Kiosk to understand that they would not be disagreeable to him.

Since writing the above, I have learnt further details with regard to the language held here by General von der Goltz, from my German colleague, Count Leyden. He said that from his remarks he had gathered quite a new idea of the Sultan; that far from being mad, as some people thought him, he was evidently very shrewd, very suspicious, and had of late developed much more ability in getting out of difficulties than he had displayed some years ago; that the prevalent idea that he was a great personal coward was also erroneous; and that as to the probability of his being deposed, the General did not believe in it, as there was no party in Turkey strong enough to do so; that His Majesty had his enemies was true, but that at Yildiz he was surrounded by persons in whom he had complete confidence, and who were absolutely at his command; that although he did not venture beyond his Palace grounds, he went about within them unguarded and with very little formality, and that if any one wished to assassinate him, he could easily effect his purpose.

With regard to the Armenian massacres, General Goltz had said that it would be next to impossible to prove that the Sultan had ordered them, for, even had he done so, he would have taken very good care that no proof thereof should be forthcoming, but that his belief was that they could not have taken place without His Majesty's cognizance, and that they might have been prevented by the authorities. He said that it was very difficult to obtain accurate information in Asia, but that he thought that the accounts of the massacres had been exaggerated, especially by the English and American missionaries, but that nevertheless he feared that the number of people killed could not be far short of 30,000, and might even amount to 50,000 or 60,000. He feared that the troops, with whom he had been so long connected,

and with whom he could not help sympathizing, and who as a rule were well cared for, would suffer much from exposure during the winter months, and that many more Christians would perish from want or otherwise, especially women and children. He expressed doubts as to whether any serious reforms would be carried into effect, and said that many Turks had from time to time spoken to him with regard to foreign interference, observing that one of two things should be done—either that Turkey should be taken in hand by the Great Powers and governed like Egypt, which they however knew to be impossible, owing to the differences between those Powers; or else that Turkey should be left to herself, as constant interference only caused embarrassment to the Government, without bringing any beneficial results to the population.

His Majesty the King of Roumania has, as your Lordship will have gathered from despatches from time to time from this Legation, been much preoccupied with the political state of Bulgaria and the Macedonian question, and with the part Roumania might have to play in certain eventualities, and Count Leyden told me that before General von der Goltz went to dine at the Palace, he had begged him to try to impress on the King that his fears were exaggerated. General von der Goltz therefore told His Majesty that the Sultan was completely master of the situation, and that the Turks, if allowed a free hand, were quite capable to cope successfully with any insurrectionary movement or raid.

Baron d'Ærenthal, the Austro-Hungarian Minister, spoke to me on this subject to-day, to the effect that the King had, in his opinion also, an exaggerated idea of the dangers from Bulgaria, and that there was a fear that he might think it incumbent upon him to take some step which might be unfriendly to Bulgaria and bring about complications, and that he had in vain tried to point out to the King that the Turks were quite well able to take care of themselves, and to repel any attack on their territory on the part of Bulgaria, and that he trusted that General von der Goltz' observations might make some impression on His Majesty, and dispel any ideas he might entertain of the necessity of Roumania's intervening, should Bulgaria enter upon an adventurous policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 117.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 28. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 23, 1896.*

AT a Court Ball on the night of the 20th instant the Emperor asked me if I had nothing of importance to say to him, and, on my replying in the negative, went on to express his surprise that I had not been instructed to make to his Government the same communication as that which had been made to that of the Emperor Nicholas.

Having assured His Majesty of my entire ignorance on this head, I asked him to be so good as to tell me what the communication was about.

The Emperor replied that your Lordship had caused inquiry to be made at St. Petersburgh as to the readiness of the Russian Government to co-operate with that of Her Majesty in concerting the measures necessary for introducing reforms into the Ottoman Empire.

His Majesty proceeded to express his regret that Her Majesty's Government had not considered it necessary to consult simultaneously the Cabinet of Vienna on a line of policy which so profoundly interests his Empire. He said that it has always been his wish that the two countries should act together in the East, and that he had always thought that this wish was equally felt in London. It was therefore a painful surprise to him to find himself neglected, and the co-operation of Russia sought by your Lordship to his exclusion.

I asked the Emperor if he had any information of similar action having been taken at any other capital, and received from His Majesty the answer that he was not aware that such had been the case, but that he authorized and indeed begged me to telegraph as soon as possible to your Lordship in order to have the matter cleared up.

Shortly afterwards I had an opportunity of asking Count Goluchowski if he could give me no more ample information as to what the Emperor was referring to. He declined to enter into conversation in the middle of a ball, but added that the facts were certain, and had caused great annoyance at Vienna.

I did not see Count Goluchowski again until yesterday, his usual day for the reception of the Diplomatic Body, when I at once told him that I had been painfully impressed by the Emperor's manner; that I had no information from your Lordship in regard to the communication said to have been made to Prince Lobanoff; but that it seemed to me probable that, in consequence of his answer to me a month ago, when I mentioned that some of the Ambassadors at Constantinople were of opinion that it would be expedient to consult upon the possibility of persuading the Sultan to appoint a responsible Ministry, your Lordship had decided upon eliciting directly from Prince Lobanoff his views on this subject.

Count Goluchowski, who had looked extremely embarrassed from the moment I entered the room, replied that he had already heard from Count Deym that the Emperor and he himself had been misled; but that the misapprehension was not their fault, but was due to the fact that the Russian Government had misunderstood the scope of your Lordship's communication.

His Excellency read to me a very long telegram containing the substance of the communication made to him by Count Kapnist, the Russian Ambassador here, from which it appeared that Prince Lobanoff had taken the proposal to mean that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be authorized to make a formal "enquête" into the situation of the Ottoman Empire, and to concert measures to prevent the collapse ("effondrement") with which it is threatened; that Prince Lobanoff had been impressed with the extensive prospect which such an "enquête" opened up, and had naturally lost no time in apprising the Austro-Hungarian Government of this important proposal.

Count Goluchowski said that the explanation sent by Count Deym showed that all that your Lordship had asked was that M. de Nélidoff should be authorized to discuss the general situation; but that he himself could not, even now, believe that the Russian Ambassador was not at liberty to do that without special instructions from his Government.

I observed that I could quite fancy that, in consequence of what happened about the second "stationnaires" (an idea started by M. de Nélidoff himself), Prince Lobanoff had tied the hands of his Representative at Constantinople very tight indeed, and that the latter fought shy of any discussion not particularly relevant to the Armenian question. I could only, however, express my satisfaction at Count Goluchowski's ready acknowledgment that the Emperor's reproaches to me were unfounded.

After my return home I received your Lordship's telegram No. 13 of yesterday, confirming Count Deym's explanation, and I carried out your instructions by communicating the substance of its contents in a confidential note to Count Goluchowski.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 118.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 24, 1896.*

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI informed me the other day that the Imperial Squadron has now definitely quitted the Levant, where, especially in view of the return of the bulk of the British Mediterranean Squadron to Malta, there is no longer any reason for their presence.

The Austro-Hungarian ships had already reached Syra on their way home, and would probably devote some time to their regular manœuvres in the Adriatic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 119.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 24, 1896.*

IN the course of conversation this morning with Baron von Marschall I asked his Excellency whether he had heard a report, which I understand had been telegraphed to an English newspaper from Constantinople, to the effect that an offensive and defensive alliance had been concluded between Russia and Turkey on the basis of the Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi of 1833.

Baron von Marschall replied that all the information he possessed on the subject was derived from a Reuter's telegram to the Wolff Telegraphic Agency stating that the report had been published in the "Pall Mall Gazette." His Excellency, however, attributed so little importance to this report, which he did not believe, that he had taken steps to prevent its publication by Wolff's Agency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 120.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 27, 1896, 12·5 P.M.*

MR. BARNHAM telegraphs that he is leaving Marash for Zeitoun with the Italian Consul.

A telegraph clerk is accompanying them.

No. 121.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 10. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 28, 1896.*

I TRANSMIT herewith to your Excellency, for your confidential information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, inclosing copy of a note addressed by him, at my request, to Prince Lobanoff, in regard to the dangers of the present situation in the Ottoman Empire, and recording a conversation with his Excellency on the points raised in that note.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 28, 1896.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me the contents of a despatch which he has received from Prince Lobanoff, replying to the communication which Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires recently addressed to his Excellency by my instructions in regard to the present condition of affairs in the Turkish Empire.

I transmit to your Excellency herewith a Memorandum giving the substance of Prince Lobanoff's observations.

I gather from observations made to me by Count Deym and M. de Courcel that the other Powers were surprised at my having addressed it to the Russian Government alone, and were even disposed to trace in that proceeding some inclination to depart from that concerted action which the Powers have hitherto observed. In making that remark, the Governments of Vienna and of Paris must have proceeded upon an imperfect report of the communication which I had made to Prince Lobanoff. I had received a despatch from Sir Philip Currie, No. 967, on Christmas Day, of which your Excellency possesses a copy. In it you will observe that the British Ambassador at Constantinople speaks of himself as acting after many private conversations with his colleagues, other than M. de Nélidoff, and he sums up his observations on the condition of the Turkish Empire in a statement which he had submitted to the Austrian and the French Ambassador, and for which he had obtained their approval. They informed Sir Philip Currie that they would write to their Governments in the sense of that statement. But the obstacle to any concerted effort on the part of the Ambassadors to find some remedy for the state of

* No. 88.

things which he depicts lay in the fact that, as he states, "The concert of the Ambassadors, as far as the Russian Ambassador is concerned, is limited to the protection of foreigners, and M. de Nélidoff does not consider himself authorized to enter into discussion with his colleagues as to the general state of the Empire." He further goes on to point out that the Ambassadors with whom he had spoken were of opinion that "the Ambassadors should be authorized to consult together, and propose a remedy for the existing state of things," and further, "that if the Russian Government could be induced to give such an instruction to their Ambassador, there would be a better chance of obtaining the co-operation of that Government."

Under these circumstances, it was natural that I should address myself to the Russian Government alone. It was of no use to address myself to the other Governments, because the concurrence of their Representatives was already obtained. The one thing wanted to complete the concert was an instruction from his Government to the Russian Ambassador that he should consult with his colleagues for the purpose of proposing a remedy for the existing state of things. In order to obtain this instruction I addressed myself to Prince Lobanoff. It appears, however, that either M. de Nélidoff was mistaken as to the nature of the instructions which were in his possession, or that Sir Philip was mistaken in reporting the description which M. de Nélidoff gave of them. You will observe that Prince Lobanoff says upon this point, "The relations of confidence which have never ceased to exist among the Representatives at Constantinople have always permitted them to exchange their ideas, and no special instructions seem to us necessary to enable them to continue to communicate their impressions mutually to each other." Starting from this misapprehension, Prince Lobanoff proceeds to infer that in the communication which I had made to him I was really originating a proposition of a far wider character, and no doubt communicated this erroneous interpretation to the other Governments of Europe.

I have made no proposal for a definite course of action to be recommended by the Ambassadors. I have rather sought to obtain such counsel as their superior means of information and judgment should enable them to offer. I do not know that in the present juncture of affairs I can take any wiser course than that of obtaining the advice of those who are most competent to give it. I am prevented from making any definite proposition on behalf of this country by a serious difficulty, namely, that, before consultation has taken place, I do not certainly know how far the Powers of Europe are prepared to go. I have expressed to the Russian Government that which every month's experience makes me more strongly feel, that no action will be of any avail which does not command their unanimous support.

The language which has been employed both by the Russian and Austrian Governments leaves no ground for doubting that they will strongly discountenance any action that goes beyond the friendly advice which Prince Lobanoff recommends. I do not share their confidence that this negative policy will arrest the evils by which the Turkish Empire is afflicted and threatened; but I recognize that any policy which would bring about a division of the European Powers would involve even greater calamities than those which we have now reason to deplore.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 123.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 29.)

Sir, *Admiralty, January 28, 1896.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of two letters from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Melita," dated the 23rd December and the 8th January, respecting the state of affairs at Jeddah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 123.

Commander Simons to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

Sir, *"Melita," at Jeddah, December 23, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the situation is unchanged at Jeddah and Mecca since my last letter, no fresh Bedouin arrests have been made, nor has any other action been taken either by the Turkish authorities or the Bedouins.

The troops reported in my last letter remain in Jeddah awaiting orders. No others have arrived; it is stated they are stopped by the Yemen disturbances.

The Austrian scientific and surveying ship "Pola" has left to continue her work in the Red Sea; the Turkish men-of-war here are unchanged.

The slave I handed over to the Consul has not yet received his papers of freedom; the authorities are still trying to find his late master, who has fled.

The general health of the ship's company remains very good; but I have to send a Maltese musician up to Port Saïd Hospital, he being greatly debilitated by the climate here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. SIMONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 123.

Commander Simons to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

Sir, *"Melita," at Jeddah, January 8, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your orders, Her Majesty's ship "Dolphin" sailed yesterday for Suez, Commander Paget previously coming to Jeddah for a few hours to turn over the Senior Officer's box and seedies.

The situation at Jeddah and Mecca is unchanged, and nothing is being done towards apprehending the murderers; the Turkish Government have sent no further troops, and the Grand Shereef of Mecca has not stirred with those he has. The Harb Arabs at Asfan, forty miles north of Mecca, are reported massed in very large numbers to resist any attack if made, and the murderers are said to be with them. There has been no change in the foreign men-of-war here since my last letter. The general health of the ship's company is very good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. SIMONS.

No. 124.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January 29, 1896.*

REFERRING to the telegram received from your Lordship No. 14, I have the honour to report that Count Goluchowski considers that the propagation of the rumour of a Russo-Turkish alliance is to be attributed to the malice of the Armenian Committee, such an alliance being evidently improbable.

No. 125.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 29, 1896.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me on the 25th instant the substance of a despatch from Prince Lobanoff, in answer to the request, which I had made through you, that M. de Nélidoff should be authorized to join in consultation with his colleagues as to the present condition of the Turkish Empire, and the nature of the remedial measures to be recommended.

I inclose herewith, for your information, a Memorandum containing the purport of this communication.*

M. de Staal called upon me to-day by appointment for the purpose of discussing it.

I pointed out to his Excellency that Prince Lobanoff had given to my words a meaning which they would not bear when he interpreted them to imply that we proposed a course of action which would be a breach of the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

Whatever measures the Powers might ultimately resolve upon, the suggestion of Sir P. Currie, which I transmitted to him, only proposed that preliminary deliberation of the Ambassadors which was necessary before any common action could be agreed upon by the Powers.

The effect, however, of Prince Lobanoff's reply was clear enough. The Russian Government refused to sanction any course of conduct which might lead to a European interference with the internal affairs of Turkey. Prince Lobanoff was content to trust in the good-will of the Sultan to bring about an amelioration in the condition of his subjects, and preferred to abstain from exercising any further pressure upon his counsels beyond what could be described as friendly advice.

I recognized that in this view Russia did not stand alone among the Powers; and I was fully convinced that the evils which would result from any interruption in the harmonious relations of the Powers would far outweigh any advantage that could possibly be expected from isolated action. But I added that little, in our opinion, could be hoped from the negative and expectant policy on which the Russian Government relied.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 126.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 30, 1896, 7·45 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Mr. Barnham at Zeitoun to-day:—

"Horrible tortures were inflicted on Armenians in Marash prisons before the departure of the Consuls from Aleppo."

This ceased before I arrived there; the prison was cleaned and about fifty prisoners released. At the same time the Armenians began to reappear in the streets and reopen their shops.

The situation at Marash is apparently more tranquil than at Aintab.

No. 127.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 23. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 30, 1896.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 44, Confidential, of the 16th instant, giving a detailed account of what passed at your audience of the Sultan on that day.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the language which your Excellency held on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 97.

No. 128.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 41. No. 3. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 31, 1896, 11·20 A.M.*

NEGOTIATIONS are taking place between the Turkish Government and the French Light-house Concessionaries for a loan of 1,300,000*l.* The 50 per cent. of gross receipts which, by the terms of the new concession, the Government are to receive is the security offered by them.

If this loan is raised, a modification of the tariff of light dues will be all the more difficult to obtain.

No. 129.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 31, 1896, 11·20 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reports that on the night of the 18th January a bishop named Boghos was murdered there, probably by Armenians.

The Chief of Police at Van has started for a village nine miles away where eight Armenians were murdered by Kurds on the 28th January.

Tranquillity prevails.

No. 130.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 31, 1896, 3·30 P.M.*

IN a private letter received from Mr. Fitzmaurice at Adana he states that:—

"Nothing but a threat by a foreign Power that satisfaction will be exacted for such a breach of faith will prevent the Zeitounlis from being massacred by Turks and Kurds after surrender."

I have accordingly sent the following telegram to Consul Barnham:—

"There is great reason to fear that the Zeitounlis will be massacred after surrender, notwithstanding any promises the Turkish authorities may make. We must avoid making ourselves responsible for a breach of faith on the part of the Turks, and it would be better to break off negotiations at the last moment unless a guarantee can be obtained which will insure future safety of Zeitounlis and will satisfy them."

No. 131.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 31, 1896, 9·30 P.M.*

Mr. BARNHAM telegraphs that interview with Zeitounlis will take place to-morrow afternoon. All the Consuls have arrived.

No. 132.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, January 31, 1896.*

A COPY of the despatch from Prince Lobanow referred to by your Lordship in despatch No. 11 of the 28th instant, has been given to Count Goluchowski by Count Kapnist. I have also communicated to his Excellency confidentially copy of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

Without seeing Mr. Goschen's note to Prince Lobanow, Count Goluchowski says that he is of course unable to promise a positive opinion, but that the Prince's apprehensions certainly appear to him to be groundless.

I have promised to show Count Goluchowski Mr. Goschen's note confidentially the next time I see him, as he particularly begged me to do so. As at present advised he agrees with your Lordship as to the advisability of a local discussion of the situation for which Baron de Calice has full authority; but he fears that it will be impossible to shake the decision arrived at by Prince Lobanow.

No. 133.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, February 1, 1896.*

I AM informed by the Italian Ambassador that it was only in order to be consulted on the European situation that he was summoned to Rome, and that he was able to reassure his Government that any desire on the part of England or Austria to break up the Ottoman Empire, and any alliance between Russia and Turkey, were equally improbable.

His Excellency states that the advice of Germany to Italy continues to be that she should maintain the closest understanding with England on all points.

He believes his mission to have been most useful.

No. 134.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, February 1, 1896.*

I SHOWED your Lordship's despatch No. 11 to the Italian Ambassador confidentially, and his Excellency asked me to state his opinion that if your Lordship made a similar communication to Rome the effect on the Italian Government would be excellent.

The statement made in the last paragraph of my telegram of yesterday, No. 17, to the effect that Count Goluchowski is personally desirous of the local discussion proposed by Sir Philip Currie, meets with Count Nigra's entire concurrence.

He shares the conviction that Prince Lobanow's decision is not to be shaken.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 43 of yesterday relative to the situation at Zeitun.

I approve the private telegram which you sent to Mr. Barnham, but should be glad if you could ascertain what are the grounds for the conviction expressed by

Mr. Fitzmaurice that the Zeitunlis will certainly be massacred after they surrender unless a foreign Power threatens to exact satisfaction if such a breach of faith is committed.

No. 136.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 1, 1896.*

I AUTHORIZE your Excellency to communicate confidentially to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs the explanations given in the inclosures in my despatch No. 8 of yesterday, relative to the communications which have passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Russian Government on the question of administrative reforms in the Ottoman Empire.

No. 136*.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 2, 1896.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Mr. Barnham at Zeitoun to-day:—

"At the meeting to-day there was a certain disposition among some of the Zeitounlis to accept Turkish terms of surrender, but the others, viz., Aghasse and two youthful and immature Hindchagists, asked for a Christian Kaimakam chosen by the European Powers, provisions for the settlement of the refugees now in Zeitoun, and a general amnesty.

"They all of them asked that the Consuls would be security for guarantees for their future safety, whatever the conditions under which the surrender might be made."

No. 137.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Tabriz, January 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to place before your Lordship the following information.

For some time past rumours of underhand endeavours on the part of the Turkish authorities here to raise troubles between the Mussulman and Christian subjects of the Shah have been afloat.

So far I have not been able, with the means at my disposal, to discover the origin of these reports, or whether they are founded on fact.

They were, however, sufficiently disquieting to induce me to warn our Karguzar (Native Agent for Foreign Affairs) of their existence, and to suggest to his Excellency that steps should be taken, on need arising, *i.e.*, on any assaults taking place between Armenians and Mussulmans, to promptly and thoroughly investigate the matter and deal with the utmost severity, especially in the event of a Mussulman being the offender, in order that a stop should be put to actions which might increase daily, and lead to disturbances.

I now hear that the Armenian Archbishop paid a visit to the Karguzar on the same day as I did (the 11th instant), and spoke on the matter in hand.

Since Saturday, the 11th instant, the communications made by me and also the Armenian Archbishop to the Karguzar have been strengthened by an accusation which has been brought by two Persian Mussulmans against a Turkish Armenian, a shoemaker called Karapet Gulmasian, of having fired at them in a by-street.

Unfortunately advantage has been taken of the fact that there was only another person, a Mussulman, in the street at the time of the occurrence, and this man was himself accused by the Armenian of having been the one to fire.

Under the circumstances, I presume the Persian authorities were obliged to give the accused Armenian the benefit of the doubt, but the man is said by the Persian Armenians to be a Turkish spy, and the brother of a man who was proved to have betrayed his co-religionists at Tiflis, and was put to death by them.

It is also stated as true that a sum of 60 tomans had been presented by the Turkish Consul-General to a Seid to induce him to encourage an evil feeling against the Armenians among his fellow-Mahommedans. That the Seid has actually written to Ihsan Husny Bey thanking him for the gift, whilst at the same time, being a prudent man, and perhaps averse to bloodshed of any kind, he made his arrangements, and has quietly departed on a pilgrimage to Kerbela.

From what I know of Ihsan Husny Bey, my Turkish colleague here, I do not think he is a fanatic or a man capable of cruelty in any shape, but I am perfectly convinced, on the other hand, that he would not hesitate to carry out any instructions or hints of whatever nature he might receive from his Government, which, with all his intelligence, he honestly believes to be immaculate as well as glorious.

That the Turkish Government would see, with great pleasure, disturbances arising between Mussulmans and Christians in these parts, and even aid and abet them, it is not difficult to believe, for, by these, attention to the painful state of affairs in their own country might be diverted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

No. 138.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 6.)
Tabriz, January 15, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a letter which has been received from the neighbourhood of Kharput, by an Armenian clergyman, teacher in the schools belonging to the American missionaries here, giving details of the outrages and massacres which have taken place in the district of Kharput, and the minute measures adopted by the Turks to insure the destruction of certain persons.

Reports have reached this of massacres at Arabkir, a place likewise situated in the district of Kharput, which one may say have almost swept away the Christian inhabitants of the town, where it is reported they numbered some 2,000 houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Letter written from near Kharput, dated December 1 (13), 1895, and received at Tabriz by M. Guleserian.

(Translation.)

I AM unable to describe the real facts concerning our district or our relatives, but I am constrained to write concerning our dear parents. In the last days of October (o.s.) a dreadful attack was made by the Kurds upon Ichna (18 miles from Kharput). The Armenians of the village betook themselves to the houses of their Turkish neighbours. Your father (aged 86) remained at home to deliver the household goods to the Kurds to satisfy them if possible, but was sacrificed before his door, and his body remained there three days unburied. Everything in the house was stolen, not even a pin remained. For a few days the Turkish neighbours kept the rest of the family as guests. Then they returned home at the suggestion of the Turks, who said the danger was past. Then they prepared a list of the Armenians who were considered deserving death, and sent and invited the Kurdish Sheikh of Gavrch.

They then made the people assemble in the church, and took them out one by one, gave each one the choice of accepting Mahommed with life, and killed in a terrible manner all who refused. Among the slaughtered were your dear brother and four other relatives, uncle Boghos, his son Hohannes, and Stephan.

After death their feet were bound with ropes, and they were drawn away and thrown by the gardens.

For some days they remained unburied. Your brother Mugerdech and his son Thomas were sought for, but have remained in concealment. The rest of the family are left without bread, without clothing and bedding, and the new part of the house is burnt. Your mother is like a person demented. She is scarcely able to move about, crying, bewailing, and begging her bread (age 75). Some of our relatives are in concealment. I have written them to come to me, though the road is very unsafe, and I am unable to render them any assistance.

In a word, they are in dire distress. If your friends remain in their present condition, soon you will have no relatives left. This information I have received from a secret letter of Baron M——, and from cousin H——, who fled here in the disguise of a Turkish woman.

Now we come to the condition of the village.

The Rev. Gregor Tamzarian, Gregor Hosekian, Khachadoor Kaya, Nesham Aga, Stephan Kokamian, the two eldest Haborian, Hohanness Der Beghdasarian, in all seventy persons, were slaughtered, thirty more were wounded, of whom some are dying day by day. In Ichna no Armenian remains. (Its population was 1,400 Armenians and 400 Turks.) Some have fled, the rest have become Mahommedans, in Kasrik 350, in Ichna very many compared with other places. The villages and cities are robbed, and many houses are burnt, many have died, and the rest have become Mahommedans.

But these affairs have also their profit. Now God is nearer to us. He has taken his loved ones; I do not grieve for those who died in Christ, and were sacrificed as martyrs; to the others may God be merciful. They need your encouragement.

H—— adds a postscript saying: "I will only add that when the merciless Turks came and took away grandfather, and smote brothers Stephan and Hohanness, our whole family in despair decided to go to the Euphrates to be drowned. Until daylight we prayed that God might guide us. In the morning we saw it was not right to do so, and have remained alive."

No. 139.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 61.)
Constantinople, January 23, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting on the general situation in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Aleppo, December 31, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of the 28th instant, reporting that the Zeitounlis had occupied one of the heights adjoining the Turkish position, and that they were assembled in considerable force.

I conclude from a letter just received, dated from Marash on the 17th instant, that the Turkish troops had suffered heavy loss prior to the alleged battle of the 23rd instant, for Mr. Macallum writes that large numbers of wounded soldiers had been brought into Marash, and that there was loud mourning in the houses of the Bashibazooks.

It is evident that every effort is being made by the authorities to conceal the truth by preventing the passage of letters from Zeitoun to Aleppo, and that the official telegrams on the subject are concocted for the purpose of preventing panic. I

fail to see how the truth about this campaign will ever be known, for between the deliberate falsehoods told by the Turks and the exaggerations of the Armenians one cannot feel sure that a single fact which has been reported up to the present moment is absolutely accurate. We are 156 miles from Zeitoun, where there is not a single European who could give a fair and intelligible account of what has happened, and the peculiar dangers of the situation have deterred newspaper correspondents from proceeding.

Doubt is even thrown upon the statement that the barracks had been destroyed, for information derived from Armenian sources and from a deserter who has just arrived here tends to show that the actual scene of the battle just reported was not outside Zeitoun, but at an old ruined castle above the River Jihan, four hours from Zeitoun. In fact, everything indicates that some disaster has befallen the troops. Deserters from the front report that they were shot down without seeing an enemy, and a very strong rumour is current here to-day that the troops have revolted. Twenty battalions were sent to the front, and of one in particular it is stated that it has been almost entirely destroyed.

I hear that steps are being taken to fortify Marash against a probable attack by the Armenians. Such a state of things would indeed justify the fear which Mr. Macallum expresses that another terrible massacre will occur in Marash.

In the letter from Mr. Macallum above quoted, he states that on the previous Saturday night 300 women and children were driven into Marash from the village of Fernouz, which had been burnt, and all the male inhabitants put to the sword. It was stated by the survivors that some 4,000 Armenians had been killed, but this is probably a great exaggeration. Very many from the surrounding villages had, I believe, collected in Fernouz at the time of the assault, but many of the young men must have escaped and joined the main force outside Zeitoun.

Mr. Macallum states that the Commission of Notables sent to Zeitoun to mediate had returned to Marash the previous day, but that they refused to answer any questions about Zeitoun. He speaks of frequent arrests of Armenians for complicity in the cause of Zeitoun, and of torture inflicted in prison. In particular, he refers to a prominent Armenian priest, named Der Ghevont, who has been cruelly tortured in prison, and he adds a request that the Patriarch should be informed.

In Aleppo two arrests have occurred this week, which have caused considerable commotion.

One was that of an Armenian lawyer named Agob Assadourian, who is accused of having engaged in treasonable correspondence, and though I understand that no incriminating papers have been found in his possession, it is unlikely that he will be set at liberty, for his conduct has long been open to suspicion. As a lad he was expelled from Aintab College for misconduct, changed his religion three times, then managed to ingratiate himself with the late Vali, who employed him in translating extracts from the English newspapers on the Armenian question, and while enjoying this protection he made himself conspicuous by incendiary language, which, in the case of any other Armenian, would have caused his arrest long before.

The other arrest was that of a leading merchant of Aleppo, named Adjemian. This had its origin in the discovery of a packet of papers and photographs addressed to M. Adjemian, which were found in the house of an Armenian of Alexandretta named Ferhad. The photographs were said to be those of three leaders of the Armenians at Zeitoun—Caspar, Alexander, and Aghassé.

Yesterday occurred the murder of a Mussulman by a Christian in the Hamidieh quarter of Aleppo, and a serious outbreak was only prevented by the promptness with which Edhem Pasha called out the troops.

At Aintab a disturbance occurred a few days since, which was suppressed by the military with small loss of life.

At the request of the missionaries, I have obtained a promise from the Forik that the troops from Biredjik, who continue to do good service at Aintab, shall not be withdrawn.

From Suedia I have received the following:—

"There are 400 troops Levkshia, 300 at Rabakli, 300 at Sandarni, and about 1,000 in Antioch. We have no idea of rising in rebellion against the Government, but we fear we shall be massacred."

This collection of troops in the Suedia district is due to the fact that Suedia continues to be the point from which arms and ammunition are forwarded to Zeitoun.

At Akbez, in the Mutessariflik of Jebel Bereket, where there is a convent of

Trappist monks and another of Lazzarists, great panic has been caused by an attack by Circassians, but troops have been sent for the protection of the Europeans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Aleppo, January* 3, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that his Excellency Edhem Pasha left for Aintab (and probably for Zeitoun) on New Year's eve.

His departure was very sudden, and it is believed that it was in connection with some extraordinary event at Zeitoun.

Having had no opportunity of ascertaining the reason from himself, I spoke with his Aide-de-camp, Rifaat Bey, who said that, in consequence of the news that the Hamidieh cavalry had attacked Urfa, the Forik had left with the object of inspecting the military arrangements there, at Aintab, and Marash.

Knowing that the Minister of War had requested him to take command at Zeitoun, I am inclined to believe that Zeitoun is his destination.

Shevket Pasha has been left in command of the garrison at Aleppo, which is the best arrangement possible.

I have since had the unpleasant duty of reporting a disturbance at Biredjik, which, I understand, was attacked by the Hamidieh cavalry, who were, however, beaten off by the troops. No details have been received of these events.

I beg to forward, for your Excellency's consideration, a sketch map* which purports to represent the country for which the Zeitounlis claim independency. Some time ago Aghassé is said to have addressed a letter to the authorities at Marash "from the Government of Zeitoun to the Representative of the Government of Turkey in Marash," in which the Turkish Government were advised that all the country from Zeitoun to Aintab had passed into the hands of the Zeitoun Government. This map is supposed to define the claim.

I beg, in the second place, to forward a photograph of Zeitoun,* and, in the third place, a copy of the new popular song which the Zeitounlis have adopted.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 140.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 64.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora reporting the answer given by the authorities to the Memorandum presented on the subject of cattle-raiding in the Yuzgat caza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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* Not sent.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, January 18, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 6th instant approving my proposal to present a Memorandum upon the incidents mentioned in my despatch of the 30th ultimo, to the Angora authorities, with a view to the necessary investigation and reparation being made by them, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency that such a Memorandum was duly handed to the Vali's assistant, who at once communicated its contents to the Mutessarif of Yuzgat. The result of that official's inquiry into the various incidents referred to, and the reparation made by him, have now been reported to the Angora authorities, and a copy of the Report has been communicated to me, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose in this despatch.

I regret that, through an oversight, two incidents mentioned in my despatch of the 30th ultimo were omitted in my Memorandum. I shall not fail, however, to repair this omission, and to report to your Excellency the result.

No answer has as yet been received by the Vali to the letter addressed by him to the Maden authorities with regard to the incidents reported from that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Memorandum.

INFORMATION has been received from Yuzgat to the effect that:—

1. The Circassian settlers in the sandjak are wandering from village to village, and are continually plundering goods and cattle belonging to Armenian villages.

Answer.—This statement is unfounded.

2. Cattle and other Armenian property in the villages of Ismaïlu, Emirler, and Jeritli have been stolen by Circassians.

Answer.—The Armenians of these villages have lost no goods or merchandize at the hands of the Circassians; cattle, however, belonging to Emirler Armenians have been driven off by Arslan Bey, of Chair Uzunlu, in the Zilé district, and his companions, for whose arrest stringent orders have been issued to the proper authorities.

3. Gotzakian Kirakos, Chingosian Harotoun, and Baltajian Dieran, while returning from Uzunlu to Yuzgat, were attacked by five Circassians near Chakmak Ghediki, and were robbed of their horses, watches, and money. One of the thieves was the son of Ali Bey.

Answer.—Ali Bey and his son are Circassians, and their complicity in this robbery is very possible. Upon the plaintiff's petition these men have been summoned before the Court for their trial.

4. Cholakian and Kantarji Carabet were attacked and robbed at Sel Déré near Mojidié; the former was killed and his companion severely beaten.

Answer.—Stringent orders have been sent to the Mejidié authorities for the arrest of the guilty parties.

5. A band of Circassians attacked the village of Bebek, broke into Armenian houses, plundered them and drove off their cattle.

Answer.—It is true that some thirty Circassians attacked Bebek, and began to plunder the villagers; but they were quickly dispersed.

6. 620 Mohair goats belonging to Aram Adamian, of Dishler, were stolen by Circassians.

Answer.—436 of the goats in question have now been recovered from the raiders who have been arrested; the remainder are being sought for.

7. 260 Mohair goats, the property of Semerdjian and Kapakdjian, of Kediler, were driven off by Circassians.

Answer.—All these goats have been recovered and returned to their owners.

8. In the village of Kizil Déré, eight horses belonging to Humpartzun Aga Papasian were carried off.

Answer.—The thieves are certain Circassians of the Zilé and Hussein Abad districts; orders have been issued for their arrest.

9. Seventeen buffaloes belonging to Apkarian, of Akjin, were driven off by Circassians, and their herdsman, Kurd Oglou, was murdered.

Answer.—Fifteen of these buffaloes have now been recovered and restored to their owner; indemnity will be demanded for the other two.

10. Sixty sheep were stolen from Turkoman village of Sarilar; their owner's name is Cheurgurjian Krikor.

Answer.—The whole of these sheep have been returned to their owners. The shepherd and a Circassian were killed, the guilty parties are undergoing their trial.

11. The Yuzgat Armenians are afraid to open their shops; the authorities endeavour to repulse the Circassians, who, when driven away from one side of the town, return to the other side. The Turkish population is armed, and threats are written upon Armenian shops.

Answer.—The shopkeepers closed their shops on the day of the pilgrims' departure for Mecca; the next day the necessary assurances were given by the authorities, and the shops were reopened. Any Circassian found without a passport or wandering about without definite occupation has been sent to his village. This is the whole truth.

No. 141.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 28, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna, reporting rumours of disturbances in the district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Consul-General Holmwood to Sir P. Currie.

Smyrna, January 22, 1896.

Sir,

RUMOURS have recently been circulated in this city of actual disturbances and projected massacres in the provincial towns of this vilayet, and I am in consequence daily appealed to by the British community, who are apt to become unreasonably timid and credulous.

As exaggerated reports are likely to reach Constantinople, I take this opportunity for assuring your Excellency that in spite of the fact that fanatical feeling is undoubtedly increasing among the lower orders of the Mahommedan population, no real danger has hitherto threatened public security, and I attribute this to the firm and watchful supervision which our present Vali, Kiamil Pasha, exercises over the local authorities.

There have been several alarms raised, but the only case which proved to be serious was at Cordelio, a suburb of Smyrna, where arms had been collected in the house of a leading Turk, and plans had been formed for a raid on the Christian community. I, however, obtained early notice of the conspiracy, and immediately posted detectives in the near neighbourhood, and, as soon as proof was obtained that the affair was serious, went privately to the Vali with my evidence, and that evening the conspirators were arrested and lodged in prison.

On Thursday last, at 5 P.M., I received, from the Manager of the Aidin Railway, copy of a telegram from the Greek Bishop that had passed over the line, indicating that the Mahommedans of the large town of Tireh, some 60 miles distant from Smyrna, had planned a massacre of Christians, which was to be attempted that night.

Knowing that a colony of 400 Bulgarian Mohajirs had settled in the outskirts of that town, and that they, like their brethren at Smyrna, were unruly and fanatical, I thought it best to go to the konak personally, and found that the Vali had not been warned, though a telegram reached him before I left. As Tireh is the terminus of the Aidin branch line, we have a number of British officials residing there, and, the station being isolated, I requested the Governor to send down a company of Gendarmerie by special train.

His Highness at once gave orders to do this, and, as the Greek Archbishop and my Greek colleague received shortly afterwards disquieting telegrams from their agents at Tireh, I asked the Manager of our railway to keep an engine ready in order that, if any disturbances arose, I might proceed promptly to the spot.

The Chief of the Gendarmerie reported the next day that there was no sign of disturbance, and on inquiry it was ascertained that the alarm had originated from the drunken braggardism of some Mohajirs in a café.

Yesterday a detailed but unfounded report was spread that there had been a massacre of Christians at Aidin, and the guides who had been engaged to escort Mr. Hohler, of our Embassy, who was visiting that neighbourhood, refused to proceed.

I have sent these particulars to your Excellency to show that the fears which have arisen in regard to the security of this province are, for the most part, chimerical, but I am somewhat anxious for the future in consequence of the approach of Ramazan, and shall, therefore, notwithstanding my confidence in the Vali, be very watchful until that period has passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERIC HOLMWOOD.

No. 142.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 70.)

Constantinople, January 28, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, giving details of losses sustained by villages in the recent disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sivas, January 17, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have visited the following villages with a view to ascertain their losses during the recent disturbances, and their present state. I submit details:—

Oulash.—A village of 150 houses and 1,300 inhabitants. In this village twenty-five were killed, and seven houses burnt, and all the cattle looted, viz., 8,000 sheep, 1,000 oxen, 140 buffaloes, 800 cows, 200 donkeys, and 130 horses. The Government has restored 1,000 sheep, 100 oxen, 8 buffaloes, 30 cows, and 10 horses. There is plenty of wood and straw. The Government has distributed enough food for six weeks.

Mayara.—A village of 77 houses and 600 inhabitants. In this village fifty were killed, seventeen houses were burnt, and the cattle looted, viz., 3,000 sheep, 200 oxen, 25 horses, 300 cows, 40 buffaloes, and 50 donkeys. The Government has restored 200 sheep, and of the rest about 70 head altogether. In this village there is very little fuel, chiefly tezik, and only straw sufficient to feed the 270 head of cattle one month. For food the villagers have barley enough for a month, but hardly any wheat.

Kangal.—A village of 2,000 inhabitants, half Armenian and half Turkish. The inhabitants are living in such a state of terror that I had great difficulty in getting any information. Forty were killed, and every Armenian house and shop looted, but none burnt. About 3,000 sheep and 100 oxen were looted, and none have been restored. Enough food has been distributed for the present, but the Armenians are destitute of everything else, such as fuel, beds, &c. At this village fourteen Armenian girls have been forcibly taken and detained in Turkish houses. On this point I have made a complaint to the Governor-General. He informs me that a Commissaire of Police has been sent to inquire into the matter. About ten or fifteen Armenians have turned Mussulman. With regard to this, the Governor-General informed me that for the present no Armenian would be allowed to change his religion.

Manjelick.—A village of 130 houses and 1,300 inhabitants. Sixty houses were burnt, and thirty-seven killed, and the cattle looted as follows: 7,000 sheep, 380 oxen and buffaloes, 15 horses, 300 cows, and 120 donkeys. Of these the Government has restored 600 sheep and 30 oxen. There is straw in abundance, and food for six weeks. There are now 150 soldiers in the village, and the villagers stated they had behaved well.

The Armenian inhabitants of a neighbouring village (Karuren), which is partly Turkish and partly Armenian, have taken refuge here to the number of about 120, and are afraid to return to their own village.

Patrin Keui.—A village of 65 houses and 600 inhabitants. None were killed, and no houses burnt, but the cattle were looted, viz., 1,337 sheep, 140 oxen, 22 horses, and 163 cows. Of these the Government has restored none, but the villagers succeeded in driving off 300 sheep and 50 oxen, which they now have. There is plenty of fuel and food for about one month. Near Patrin Keui is a small village called Chavirma, of 12 houses and about 100 inhabitants. It appeared destitute of everything, and, I was informed, had only food enough for fifteen days.

Pasha Kevi.—A village of 34 houses and 250 inhabitants. Seven houses were burnt, ten killed, and the cattle looted, viz., 900 sheep, 88 oxen, and 200 cows. Of these the Government has restored 60 sheep, 10 oxen, and 30 cows. The village has food for one month, and straw in abundance.

Kozmaga.—A village of 80 houses and 560 inhabitants. Ninety killed, and forty-three houses burnt, and the cattle looted, viz., 2,000 sheep, 280 oxen, 350 cows, and 30 horses. The Government has restored about 150 head of cattle altogether. From this village twenty Armenian girls had been carried away, but were brought back.

Kuntaros.—A village of 37 houses and 350 inhabitants. Ten houses burnt, and the cattle looted, viz., 1,300 sheep, 240 oxen, 20 buffaloes, 20 horses, and 195 cows. Of these the Government has restored 70 sheep, 20 oxen, 6 buffaloes, and 5 horses.

Kurthanan. A village of 30 houses and 250 inhabitants. Two were killed, and the cattle looted, viz., 1,200 sheep, 200 oxen, 200 cows, and 30 horses. None restored.

In each of these villages, besides the cattle enumerated, all valuables and house furniture of every description has been looted, and the wheat and barley, if not carried off, was in most cases destroyed.

The Governor-General has sent several officials to collect the property stolen, and, if possible, restore it, but only a very small proportion has been brought back, and I have been informed by both Turks and Armenians that these officials keep most of the recovered property for themselves. I drew the attention of the Governor-General on my return to the destitute state of the villages. He told me that there would be no scarcity, as the Government had ample stores, and would distribute food as required. Of this I have no means of judging, but the present stock of grain in the villages will be exhausted in about one month, and the villagers will then have to kill what cattle has been restored to them for food. I also drew the attention of the Governor-General to the necessity of distributing sufficient seed and a sufficient number of oxen to enable the villagers to sow their fields in the spring. He assured me that there was a sufficiency at Sivas, which the Government would distribute as required, and that the bulk of the sowing had been completed in the autumn. From inquiries I believe, however, that the Governor-General has been misinformed on this point, and that very little of the autumn sowing was done.

P.S. Wednesday last week an attack was made on Darende. In anticipation of such an occurrence an additional force of 100 soldiers had been drawn from Gurun, and 20 mounted zaptiehs sent from Delikdash. The attack was beaten off, and no damage done beyond the loss of a few sheep.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BUTLMAN.

No. 143.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received February* 3.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 29, 1896.

THE United States' Minister has addressed a note to the Sublime Porte demanding permission for an American man-of-war to be stationed at Constantinople like the stationnaires of the other Powers. According to the statement of the Porte, the note adds that if the permission is not granted the United States will break off relations with Turkey, and withdraw their Minister.

The United States' Legation, however, deny this, and state that in their note they merely insisted that they have the same right to a stationnaire as the Great Powers. It is said that the vessel has already left America, but permission for her passage through the Dardanelles has not yet been granted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 144.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 29, 1896.

ABRAHAM PASHA, a wealthy Armenian who does not openly take any part in politics, called upon me and the other Ambassadors some time ago and stated that the condition of the Armenians was hopeless unless they could be reconciled to the Sultan, and that the great obstacle to such a reconciliation was the Patriarch, who was viewed with intense dislike and distrust by His Majesty. He said that, in his opinion, the only means of saving the people in the Asiatic provinces from starvation was that the Patriarch should resign or be deposed, and that the Armenians should profess their absolute submission to the Sultan's will and should throw themselves upon his mercy. In that case he believed that His Majesty would issue orders to stop any further massacres, and to distribute adequate relief to the destitute.

Abraham Pasha asked whether I should be prepared to advise the leading Armenians in Constantinople to take the course he suggested.

I replied that I could not interfere in such a matter, that I had personally a great regard for the Patriarch Izmirlian, and a high opinion of his character; that I should be prepared to use my influence to protect him against any attacks from the Turkish authorities, but that if the Armenians themselves considered that it was best for their welfare that he should retire, I had nothing to say, and they must act on their own judgment. I inquired whether it was likely that any action such as he advised would be taken.

Abraham Pasha said that he did not believe that at present any influential Armenians were prepared for it, but that with my approval he was ready to recommend it to them. I said that in my personal opinion no advantage would be gained by the removal of Mgr. Izmirlian, and the substitution of a Prelate who would be the subservient tool of the Palace. I understand that none of my colleagues gave any encouragement to Abraham Pasha's suggestions. I have little doubt that he was sent by the Sultan to sound the Embassies, although he denied that this was the case, and said that he was not in favour with His Majesty. He subsequently visited the Patriarch and suggested that he should resign. His Beatitude consulted his Council, who expressed approval of his conduct, and gave it as their opinion that nothing would be gained by his retirement at present. They considered, however, that if he was banished by the Sultan the Armenians would take no step to support him.

I now learn from a private source that the Sultan has made an attempt through Mahmoud Djelalledin Pasha to bribe the members of the Council of the Patriarchate to depose Mgr. Izmirlian. This attempt proved unsuccessful, but His Majesty is said to have declared that by some means or other the Patriarch must be got rid of.

The Grand Vizier has stated that he has in his hands correspondence which seriously compromises his Beatitude, and which would enable the Government to insist on his dismissal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 145.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 29, 1896.

DURING my audience with the Sultan on the 15th January His Imperial Majesty referred to certain correspondence which had passed between Saad-ed-Din Pasha, the Commissioner whose appointment is mentioned in my despatch No. 1002, and the local authorities. These papers would prove, His Majesty said, that the Ottoman authorities refused to recognize forced conversions of Armenians to Islam,

and discouraged them from taking such a step when there was reason to believe it was not prompted by religious conviction.

The First Secretary subsequently stated that he had received orders to show the "dossier" of the correspondence to Her Majesty's Embassy, but had unfortunately mislaid it, but, though unable to produce the actual papers, he was, he said, able to describe their contents.

Saad-ed-Din Pasha had telegraphed that certain Armenians, villagers from the neighbourhood of Balahour, in the district of Baiburt, had appeared before him stating they had become Moslems, and that a flag was flying on their church. He at once told them that every one was free to profess what religion he pleased, and that conversion such as theirs was not acceptable. He then desired them to remove their turbans, and had the flag taken down from the church.

In the district of Kharput also Armenians had wished to become Moslems, but the Porte had been instructed to direct the local authorities not to admit such conversions.

The First Secretary was able, however, to produce a telegram dated Biredjik (Vilayet of Aleppo), and signed by the Heads of the Gregorian Catholic and Protestant Armenian communities of that town. It stated that these communities, "who dwell in perfect security and comfort under the just rule of the Sultan without danger to their lives or property, desire to embrace the religion of Mahommed; this offer is spontaneous, no one having made any proposal of the kind to them." The telegram ended by asking that the local authorities might be instructed to carry out the needful formalities.

The Sultan sent me a message saying that he desired this telegram to be brought to my notice; it was difficult for him to discourage persons sincerely desirous of embracing the faith of Islam. He was anxious, however, to prevent all but sincere conversions, and wished to inquire into this because he thought there might be more in it than met the eye. He would therefore instruct the Kaimakam and Naib of Biredjik to report on the matter, and suggested that I should name some trustworthy person who could make a joint inquiry with those officials.

In reply, I proposed to send Mr. Fitzmaurice, now Acting Vice-Consul at Adana, to Biredjik, but have as yet received no answer.

The First Secretary now states that the Sultan, though he has not forgotten the affair, is too much occupied with other business to give it his attention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 146.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

Pera, January 30, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two copies of a Tabular Statement of facts connected with the recent disturbances in Asia Minor prepared by a Committee of Delegates from the six Embassies.

The object of this Statement is to give a succinct account of the events which preceded the massacres or disturbances in each town where they occurred, of the loss of life and property as far as the details are known, and also of the attitude of the local authorities.

It is mainly based on a comparison of the Consular Reports addressed to the various Embassies. Some of the details, however, respecting the Vilayets of Sivas, Kharput, Adana, Diarbekir, and Aleppo are derived from Catholic priests and Protestant missionaries, not natives of this country, but their evidence was admitted only when they described events of which they were eye-witnesses, and when it was in harmony with the general tenour of the official Reports.

The number of victims has been entered only in those cases where there exist data for forming an accurate estimate. This was often found to be impossible, particularly in the case of villages respecting whose fate nothing was known except that the region in

which they were situated had been devastated. For instance, there is no record of the loss of life in the country districts of Van, Kharput, or Diarbekir. The total loss, respecting which accurate information was obtainable, amounts to about 25,000 persons, and, if we add to this the massacres respecting which there are no details, the estimate may be increased to a much higher figure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Evénements de 1895 en Asie Mineure.

Vilayet de Trébizonde.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Trébizonde ..	2 Octobre ..	..	..	Bahri Pacha, ex-Vali de Van, et Hamdi Pacha, Général Commandant la Subdivision Militaire, sont légèrement blessés de deux coups de feu attribués à des Arméniens.	
	4–5 „ ..	..	..	Une vive agitation est causée parmi les Musulmans par la nouvelle des troubles survenus à Constantinople le 30 Septembre. Dans la soirée du 4, quatre Musulmans en armes, venus en tête des villages voisins, pénètrent dans la ville et attaquent les quartiers Chrétiens. Dépassé le Vali, le point de départ des incidents est une querelle privée entre Arméniens et Turcs, mais le fait qu'une partie des manifestants Musulmans étaient venus de villages situés à plusieurs heures de distance de Trébizonde, prouve une préméditation évidente de leur part. Du reste, les Musulmans de la ville avaient fait dans la journée des achats considérables d'armes au Bazar et avaient également tenté de s'emparer d'un dépôt d'armes. Les Consuls font immédiatement une démarche auprès du Vali, revenu en ville de la campagne, au cours de la manifestation.	L'attitude du Vali a été satisfaisante, celle des autorités militaires tardive et hésitante. Le fait indiqué par les autorités comme origine des incidents paraît inexact. La querelle a eu lieu entre Musulmans seuls.
	8 „ ..	600 environ dont 20 Musulmans	..	Vers midi, une panique se produit dans toute la ville et des coups de feu retentissent de toutes parts. L'enquête des Consuls démontre qu'aucune provocation n'est venue des Arméniens. La ville était dans le calme lorsque, sur un signal donné par un coup de trompette, l'émeute commença. Elle cessa également, vers 3 heures, sur un signal analogue. Tous les Arméniens, surpris dans les rues, sont massacrés. Les assassins pénètrent aussi de force dans les boutiques, tuent les marchands et pillent les marchandises. Seules par suite d'un mot d'ordre évident, les habitations des étrangers sont épargnées. 150 personnes se sont réfugiées au Consulat de Russie. Tous les autres Consulats ont aussi donné asile aux fugitifs poursuivis par les assassins. L'établissement des Frères de la Doctrine Chrétienne en a recueilli plus de 2,000 jusqu'au 15 Octobre.	Au signal donné, les Mahomadjis Lazes du port ont couru à leurs embarcations pour y chercher leurs armes. En maints endroits des soldats ont été surpris assistant les assassins et les pillards. Des officiers supérieurs ont été vus faisant charger des objets pillés sur des voitures et les faisant porter chez eux. Le pillage a été toléré par l'autorité jusqu'au soir. Le 10 seulement, 150 hommes de troupe, promis par le Vali depuis le 5, arrivent de Rizé.
				Plus de soixante Arméniens se sont réfugiés à bord du paquebot Russe et ont pu avec peine échapper aux poursuites acharnées des bateliers qui cherchaient à les tuer avant qu'ils fussent arrivés à bord.	
	24 Novembre ..	..	..	Une menace de nouveaux troubles a été dissipée assez rapidement. **Plus de 1,500 Arméniens, dans le mois qui a suivi les troubles, se sont embarqués pour la Russie.** **Les pertes matérielles sont évaluées à £T. 260,000 (environ 5,000,000 fr.)** **Depuis, la confiance n'a pu renaître. La ville est ruinée au point de vue économique et les Chrétiens demeurent à juste titre très inquiets. Les Grecs de la campagne émigrent en nombre.**	La cour martiale, instituée pour rechercher les auteurs des crimes du 8 Octobre, s'est bornée à donner des conseils aux Musulmans. Quant aux Arméniens, ils ont été arrêtés en masse, sous prétexte de les soustraire aux entreprises des Musulmans. **Huit ont été condamnés à mort et vingt-cinq à plusieurs années de prison.**
		107	..	**Parmi les villages pillés de la région de Trébizonde on peut citer** ceux de: Mula, cinquante morts; Bujuk-Samorouk-Sou, dix-huit morts; Katchuk-Samorouk-Sou, huit morts; Barian, dix-huit morts; et Zufanos, treize morts.	
Gumuch-Hané ..	25 Octobre ..	100 Arméniens et quelques Grecs	..	**Les Musulmans ont massacré les Arméniens de la localité et des villages environnants. Avant de procéder au massacre, les Musulmans réunis sur la place publique ont séparé les Arméniens des autres Chrétiens et ont fait ranger ceux-ci de leur côté, afin de ne pas les confondre avec leurs victimes, désignées d'avance.**	
	26 „ ..	..	..	**Les villages de la région: Bussova, Armurdan, Zommara, Pingian, Agovannes, Iban, Toretz, Sarindick, Edzbeder, Agrokouz, Hamlik, ont été pillés.**	
Samsoun ..	7 Décembre ..	..	..	**Le village de Kabadjeviz est envahi par la bande du brigand Kalkdjioglou. Quelques Arméniens sont tués, le reste se réfugie dans la campagne.**	
	13 „ ..	..	..	**Une panique se produit à Samsoun, surtout parmi les Grecs. Le Mutessarif rétablit le calme assez rapidement.**	
Aghdja-Guney ..	14–15 Décembre	..	..	**A Aghdja-Guney, localité du Caza de Terchamba, Sandjak de Samsoun, les Rédifs envoyés pour protéger les villages de la région contre les brigands, se livrent à toute sorte d'excès contre les habitants, pillent leurs maisons, dévalisent l'église Arménienne, profanent les objets de culte, en présence du prêtre, qu'ils ont lié avec des cordes et déclarent qu'ils continueront à traiter les Arméniens de la même façon, tant qu'ils ne se convertiront pas à l'Islamisme.**	

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Erzeroum ..	6 Octobre ..	..	..	Deux Arméniens sont tués dans la ville. Ce meurtre et la nouvelle des troubles survenus à Trébizonde, le 5 et le 8, causent une vive inquiétude parmi les Arméniens. Le 28, les Musulmans pillent le village de Tifnik près Erzeroum.	Bien que, au commencement d'Octobre, les patrouilles aient été renforcées, l'autorité, en dépit des efforts faits par les Consuls pour obtenir des mesures propres à calmer la population et désarmer les Musulmans, ne sent guère occupée que d'arrêter des Arméniens. La population Turque se préparait cependant au grand jour en vue d'un massacre.
				Dans les derniers jours du mois, une quarantaine de villages Arméniens du Caza de Terdjan sont saccagés et incendiés. Les habitants sont massacrés en grand nombre. On peut citer notamment les villages de—	
		15	..	Pakradji : 200 maisons pillées. Les habitants qui échappent au massacre sont de force convertis à l'Islamisme.	
		8	..	Podik : 80 maisons pillées. Les habitants épargnés sont obligés de se faire Musulmans.	
		30	..	Pirij : 120 maisons pillées. Les habitants épargnés sont obligés de se couverter à l'Islamisme.	
				Les seuls villages Arméniens épargnés du Caza sont Karakoulak, Maugh, Hoghegh.	
	30 „ ..	400 12 Turcs	..	Le massacre des Arméniens à Erzeroum commence à midi, le pillage des maisons et des boutiques dure jusqu'au soir. De nombreux villages aux environs de la ville sont saccagés.	
				En dehors des 400 victimes constatées par les Consuls, un grand nombre d'autres Arméniens ont disparu. De nombreux blessés sont transportés à l'ambulance établie chez les Frères de la Doctrine Chrétienne.	
				1,500 boutiques et quelques centaines de maisons ont été pillées.	
	3 Novembre ..	..	..	Nouveaux troubles. Quelques victimes Arméniennes.	
	25 „ ..	..	..	Une panique se produit au cours de laquelle un Arménien est tué et dix blessés.	
	10 Décembre ..	..	..	Nouvelle panique mais sans effusion de sang.	
Passen	27–28 Novembre	140	..	Le Monastère de Hassankalé est pillé et incendié, l'Évêque et les habitants massacrés sauf un.	
				Quatorze autres villages du caza sont pillés. Les villages épargnés sont—	
				Delibaba, qui a résisté.	
				Kamnzor, qui a payé une rançon de 20 somars de blé et £T. 10.	

				Dodoveran, qui a payé une rançon de 16 somars de blé.	
				Ichgon, qui a payé une rançon de £T. 30.	
				Parmi les villages pillés dans ce caza, on peut citer : Youzvereu, Ekebad, Chibou, Krtaboz, Yagan, Keupru-Keui, Tordan, Ertow.	
Eva	27–28 Novembre	..	..	Les villages suivants de ce caza ont été pillés et incendiés :—	
		2	..	Tchipek, complètement saccagé.	
				Arzati, „ „	
				Dinarikom, „ „	
		2	..	Unudum, complètement saccagé. L'église a été incendiée ; le prêtre et un autre Arménien ont été tués.	
				Keghakhor, complètement saccagé.	
				Gheritchk, „ „	
			Plusieurs	Ghordjengoz, „ „	
		4	..	Tevnik, complètement saccagé. L'église pillée ; le prêtre et trois Arméniens tués.	
		5	..	Ozni, complètement saccagé. L'église pillée ; le prêtre et trois Arméniens tués.	
				Badishen, complètement saccagé	
			Plusieurs	Pelour, „ „	
				Iledja, les maisons des Arméniens riches ont été saccagées.	
				Abelhendi, complètement saccagé.	
		3	..	Salazzor, „ „	
		2	..	Tarkouni, „ „	
		1	..	Komk, complètement saccagé. L'église pillée et le prêtre tué.	
				Sengarig, complètement saccagé.	
				Gueus, „ „	
				Rabat, „ „	
				Ukhdazor, „ „	
		1	1	Katchga-Vank, complètement saccagé. L'Archimandrite blessé et un Arménien tué.	
			Plusieurs	Sengouli, complètement saccagé.	
				Souuk Tchermak a évité le pillage en payant une rançon de £T. 120.	
Erzindjian ..	21 Octobre ..	Plusieurs centaines	400	Des troubles et des massacres d'Arméniens ont éclaté à la suite, dit l'autorité, du meurtre d'un Mollah par les Arméniens. D'après les sources officielles, soixante-quinze Arméniens auraient été tués. Les Consuls évaluent le nombre des victimes à plusieurs centaines dont sept Musulmans.	

Localités.	Dates.	Morts	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Baïbourt ..	27 Octobre ..	650 700	.. ..	Une bande armée de Musulmans à cheval, commandée par un désertoir, Tchaldaroglou, venant de Surméné (caza du Sandjak de Trébizonde) ravage de fond en comble les villages des environs de Baïbourt. Plus de 650 Arméniens ont péri dans la ville; dans les villages toute la population mâle a été massacrée. Plus de 165 villages ont été dévastés. Ceux de Narzahan et de Loussoukli ont été particulièrement éprouvés. M. Bergeron, Consul de France à Erzeroum, qui, retournant en France en congé, a parcouru le pays, a trouvé la région entre [illegible] et Gumuch-hané (Vilayet de Trébizonde) complètement dévastée. En passant près de Narzahan, il a vu enfouir dans une fosse une centaine de cadavres d'Arméniens. Les [illegible] sillonnées de bandes de femmes et d'enfants, errant sans asile, ni nourriture, ni vêtements. Plusieurs villages ont dû embrasser l'Islamisme pour échapper à la destruction.	Les autorités ont laissé faire les émeutiers et leur responsabilité est gravement engagée. On a constaté que beaucoup de Musulmans possédaient des armes empruntées à la troupe; des soldats ont participé au massacre et au pillage.
Kighi	14 Octobre .. 16 " .. 23 " ..	..	..	Neuf villages sont pillés dans le caza. La ville est assiégée par les Kurdes. Un massacre d'Arméniens a lieu dans la ville.	
Bayazid ..	..	Près de 500	..		

Vilayet de Bitlis.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Bitlis	25 Octobre ..	Près de 800	.. .	Au sortir de la Mosquée les Turcs attaquent les Arméniens sans provocation aucune de la part de ceux-ci. Le massacre a commencé et a cessé au signal du clairon. D'après les Consuls, le nombre des morts s'élève à près de 800. D'après les autorités Ottomanes il ne serait que de 169, dont 39 Musulmans. Le nombre des blessés serait de 150, dont 130 Musulmans. On signale dans la ville et dans les villages un grand nombre de conversions à l'Islamisme.	
Sassoun et Talori..	10 Novembre ..	..	..	Un certain nombre de villages Arméniens de la région sont pillés. On peut notamment citer le village de "Ichkentzor," qui a été complètement saccagé et dont les habitants ont été massacrés.	
Mouch	15 Novembre ..	..	..	Une vingtaine d'Arméniens sont massacrés par les Musulmans. Les troubles sont rapidement réprimés par le Mutessarif de Mouch, Feham Pacha.	La responsabilité des menaces de massacres et des troubles survenus, retomberait sur le Cadi de Mouch. Ce n'est que par l'énergie et le zèle du Mutessarif et du Mufti que la ville a été sauvée d'un désastre complet.
Seert	19 Novembre ..	..	..	Un village aux environs de Seert est attaqué et pillé par les Musulmans.	
	Décembre ..	..	..	A Chabakchour tous les Arméniens survivants au massacre se sont vus obligés de devenir Musulmans. Les Musulmans massacrent un nombre considérable de Chrétiens, Chaldéens et Arméniens. Beaucoup de maisons habitées par des Syriens et des Jacobites sont pillées. Un grand nombre de villages des alentours, habités par des Syriens, des Chaldéens, et des Jacobites sont détruits. On peut citer notamment ceux de: Mar Yacoub, Berkè, Telmechar, Beincof.	L'autorité use de tous les moyens pour forcer les Arméniens à signer une déclaration constatant que ce sont eux qui ont provoqué les troubles.

Vilayet de Van.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Van .. .				**Adeldjevas: dix-huit villages pillés par les Kurdes Haideranli,** sous le commandement d'Emin et Tamir Pachas. Au village d'Arrin, neuf personnes sont tuées. A Ardjist, le Monastère de Mezapé est pillé par Hassan Agha, père d'Emin Pacha. A Pani, deux hommes et une femme sont tués et dix villages des environs pillés.	
				160 villages situés autour du Lac de Van dans les Vilayets de Van et de Bitlis sont pillés du 1er au 20 Novembre. Le nombre des victimes paraît avoir été moins considérable que dans les vilayets voisins.	
	25 Octobre ..	..	..	Serai, chef-lieu du Caza de Mahmoudié, dans le Sandjak de Hekkiari, notamment, a été pillé le 12 Novembre par les Kurdes, sous le commandement de Houssein Bey Takouri, Kaimakam des Hamidiés.	
				Baehkalé, Gargan, Sparghird, Shattak, Khosbab, Bergeri, Elbak, ont été pillés; 10,000 personnes sont dans un état de dénûment complet. A Khizan, quelques Arméniens ont pu se sauver en acceptant l'Islamisme. Ils auraient été contraints de tuer leurs parents qui refusaient de devenir Musulmans.	L'autorité n'est pas intervenue malgré la présence des troupes.
	10 Novembre ..	..	..	Bogaz-Kessen et Hazira ont été pillés par des Kurdes, ainsi que Dermen, où l'attaque a été conduite par les Hamidiés sous le commandement d'Achmed Khan, de la tribu de Chemsiki Dedim.	
	10 Novembre ..	..	..	Haigatsor est pillé. Le Chef Notable Arménien d'Azvanashen a été tué. Lamazguird a été attaqué quatre fois par les Kurdes.	
			..	A Mikhnir, six Arméniens ont péri.	
				A Marmied, une jeune fille ayant été enlevée, un Arménien s'est hasardé à faire des remontrances à ce sujet; il a été tué.	
				Arshag est attaqué par les Kurdes qui sont repoussés par les soldats; quelques Kurdes sont tués.	

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Vilayet de Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Kharpout ..	10-11 Novembre	Plus de 500	..	Les Kurdes et les Musulmans attaquent les quartiers Arméniens et massacrent les habitants. Le Supérieur de la Mission des Capucins a failli être tué. La Mission Américaine est détruite et un grand nombre des Chrétiens survivants se voit obligé de se convertir à l'Islamisme.	Les officiers et les soldats prennent part au butin.
				Plus de soixante villages, situés aux environs de Kharpout, sont dévastés. D'après une communication du Vali d'Erzeroum aux Consuls, le nombre des morts serait de quatre-vingt-douze dont douze Musulmans. Les hospices dirigés par les Capucins sont remplis de blessés.	Les Kurdes prétendent être de connivence avec l'autorité; celle-ci finit par comprendre qu'elle doit agir, mais trop tard, et, comme les officiers, les soldats et les gendarmes ont pris part au pillage, elle n'ose sévir contre personne.
				Une caravane de 200 Arméniens, renvoyés d'Adana à Kharpout, leur pays d'origine, est attaquée par des Kurdes qui en tuent 193. Les gendarmes, au lieu de les protéger, prennent part au pillage.	
				Il est impossible de préciser le nombre des localités dévastées et des Arméniens disparus. Mais il résulte de l'ensemble des informations parvenues aux Consuls que toute la région a été ravagée.	
				Le chiffre de la population Chrétienne étant fort élevé dans cette région, on peut craindre que le nombre des victimes ne soit très considérable.	
Arabkir ..	10-5 Novembre	2,800	Un très grand nombre	Les Kurdes et les Turcs en armes se jettent sur les Chrétiens et saccagent la ville. D'après les renseignements officiels, le nombre des victimes serait de 260, dont 60 Musulmans.	Après les premiers jours, des bandes de Musulmans venues de la campagne, se sont jointes à ceux de la ville.
				D'après les renseignements Consulaires, le pillage et l'incendie ont duré dix jours. Plusieurs églises ont été profanées; 2,400 maisons environ ont été pillées; 2,800 Arméniens environ ont péri. Les femmes et les enfants survivants sont réduits à la misère.	Après la fin des incendies, la police a fait des perquisitions et tous les hommes échappés au massacre, ont été incarcérés. On n'a pas de nouvelles de leur sort.
				Le village voisin d'Ambargha a vu tous ses habitants massacrés sauf trois, soixante maisons y ont été saccagées. Au village de Chenig, ils ne restent que six habitants.	L'autorité a fait distribuer du pain aux malheureux pendant quelques jours, puis a cessé ce secours.
				Tous les autres villages de la plaine sont plus ou moins ravagés.	

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Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population
Eghin	8 Novembre ..	..	..	Les Kurdes de Dersim attaquent le village de Gamarngah, 300 maisons sont saccagées et un quartier de 31 maisons complètement incendié. Les habitants sont en partie massacrés. Le reste a dû embrasser l'Islamisme. Eghin même a été épargnée en payant aux Kurdes une rançon de £ T. 1,500. Abou-Cheikh a été épargnée en payant aux Kurdes une rançon de £ T. 200. A Pinguian, 250 maisons ont été pillées. „ Armadan, 130 „ „ „ Lidjk, 220 „ „ „ Simara, 80 „ „ „ Teghoud, 140 „ „ „ Mouchcghak, 160 „ „ „ Narver, 60 „ „ Les habitants de toutes ces localités ont été en partie massacrés. Ceux qui ont pu échapper ont dû se convertir à l'Islamisme	
Malatia ..	29 Octobre ..	..	..	Une première alerte se produit et les Arméniens se réfugient chez eux. Les nouvelles des massacres dans la région contribuent à entretenir le trouble pendant les jours suivants.	Pendant vingt-quatre heures le Mutessarif laisse le massacre et le pillage continuer.
	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Novembre	3,000	..	Les Kurdes et les Turcs se jettent sur les Chrétiens et pendant six jours les massacres et le pillage continuent. Les Arméniens se réfugient dans les églises pour fuir le pillage et l'incendie. Les Capucins Catholiques sont maltraités et frappés. Leur maison, leur école, et leur église sont brûlées. Le Cardinal transportés, le lendemain soir, avec une foule d'Arméniens Catholiques, dans une grande caserne, ils y demeurent trois jours et trois nuits dans une chambre sans nourriture. Leurs pertes s'élèvent à 120,000 fr. Le nombre des martyrs est estimé à 3,000 au moins, dont beaucoup de femmes et de jeunes gens. Un nombre assez considérable est forcé de se convertir à l'Islamisme. Toutes les maisons Arméniennes sont brûlées. Les maisons et l'Église Orthodoxe du village de Gumuch-Meidan ont été saccagées. Dans le village de Mamcha, trente maisons ont été pillées.	Le 5 au soir seulement, il fait dire à l'Évêque Arménien Catholique qui s'est fidèles réfugiés à l'église veulent être protégés, ils doivent livrer leurs armes; ce n'est qu'après qu'il consent à les faire évacuer sur la caserne. Le 6, il fait de même pour 3,000 Arméniens-Grégoriens réfugiés à l'église de la communauté. Le 9 Novembre seulement, il fait passer les Pères dans la maison d'un Musulman.

Vilayet de Diarbékir.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Diarbekir ..	1er Novembre ..	Armén.-Grég. 1,000	250	Les Kurdes de la campagne entrent dans la ville le matin et, unis aux Musulmans, pillent le marché, l'incendient, puis massacrent les Chrétiens de tous rites. Les soldats, les zaptiés, et les Kurdes s'unissent pour tirer sur les Chrétiens.	Aniz Pacha, Vali intérimaire, affiche une hostilité ouverte contre les Chrétiens. Confirmé dans le poste de Vali, au commencement d'Octobre 1895, il débute par les irriter et semer la discorde entre les fidèles et le clergé, en forçant celui-ci à signer un télégramme remerciant le Sultan de lui avoir définitivement confié le poste de Vali.
		„ Cathol. 10	11		
		Syriens Orthod. 150	11		
		„ Cathol. 3	1		
		Chaldéens .. 14	9		
		Grecs .. 3	3		
		Protestants . 11	1		
		1,191	286	**Le carnage dure trois jours.**	
		Maisons pillées ..	1,701	Les Turcs affirment que les Chrétiens ont provoqué le massacre en pénétrant dans les mosquées et en tuant des Musulmans. Cette affirmation est absolument erronée. Le 30 Octobre, le Consul de France signalait plusieurs réunions tenues chez un certain Djemil Pacha et auxquelles assistaient le Cheikh de Zeilan et son fils (déjà compromis dans le massacre de Sassoun). Les projets les plus sinistres contre les Chrétiens y avaient été discutés. Des placards avaient été apposés sur les murs des mosquées. Les Musulmans, mal informés sur la teneur des réformes décidées par Sa Majesté le Sultan, avaient envoyé au Sultan un télégramme de protestation et annonçaient leur intention de se venger des Chrétiens. Le Vendredi 1er Novembre, on sait à la rigueur la menace a été satisfaisante.	Au cours du massacre, le cinquième jour, il refusait encore au Consul de France d'envoyer une garde pour l'intérieur du Couvent des Capucins.
		Boutiques pillées et incendiées	2,448		
			£ T.		
		Pertes matérielles ..	2,000,000	La préméditation était donc évidente de leur part et la panique des Chrétiens justifiée. On remarquait, en outre, depuis quelque temps une excitation insolite parmi les Musulmans qui faisaient des achats considérables d'armes et de munitions.	Pour rétablir l'ordre, il fait désarmer les Chrétiens, mais par contre laisse les Musulmans armés.
				Plus de 700 Chrétiens se réfugièrent au Consulat de France. Cinq fois les Kurdes voulurent attaquer la maison Consulaire, mais sans succès.	Il supprime à la communauté Arménienne qui a 400 familles à nourrir, les quelques secours accordés par le Gouvernement, parce que l'Évêque a refusé de signer un télégramme reconnaissant la culpabilité des Arméniens.
	29	.. ..	..	De nouveaux troubles éclatent pendant la nuit et sont assez vite réprimés. Toute la région des alentours a été dévastée par les Kurdes; on estime à 30,000 le nombre de ceux qui ont vu leurs familles décimées et leurs villages détruits. En dehors des morts dont les cadavres ont été retrouvés, beaucoup d'Arméniens ont péri dans les flammes et un grand nombre de corps ont été jetés dans l'incendie par ordre de l'autorité. Mille Chrétiens de la ville, et mille villageois qui travaillaient en ville ont disparu.	
				119 villages du sandjak sont pillés et incendiés.	
	31 Décembre ..	.. ..	..	L'agitation recommence parmi les Kurdes et une forte panique se produit parmi les Chrétiens.	Abdullah Pacha, Commissaire Impérial, et le Commandant Militaire font rentrer les Kurdes dans l'ordre.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Mardin ..	7 Novembre ..	..	..	La ville est en grand danger, mais évite le massacre. Toute la région est dévastée. Le grand village Arméno-Catholique de Telekarmen est complètement saccagé. Ses habitants se réfugient à Mardin. Le village Grec-Orthodoxe de Pakoz, contenant 100 familles avec le prêtre, se voit obligé de se convertir à l'Islamisme.	

Vilayet de Sivas.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population
Sivas	..	..	..	La question des réformes administratives à introduire en Asie Mineure a particulièrement agité le Vilayet de Sivas, où l'élément Arménien est important et riche. Dès le commencement de Novembre, des nomades Kurdes du Vilayet de Trébizonde envahissent le Vilayet de Sivas et, unis aux Musulmans, pillent et brûlent des villages Arméniens. On signale dès cette époque un certain nombre de victimes à Kara-Hissar, Zara, Divreghi, Dorendé, Soucheri.	Le Vali rassemble 1,000 Rédifs et 100 zaptiés auxiliaires, mais ne peut obtenir de la Porte les autorisations lui permettant de prendre les mesures efficaces.
	12 Novembre ..	Environ 1,500	..	A midi, une vive fusillade commence dans la ville. Jusqu'à 3 heures les massacres et le pillage durent. L'émeute, un peu calmé le 13, reprend le 14. Le nombre des victimes se monte à environ 1,500. Toutes les boutiques appartenant aux Arméniens sont pillées et le petit commerce qu'ils détiennent en entier est ruiné. Le soir du massacre les Muezzins, du haut des minarets, appelaient la bénédiction d'Allah sur le carnage. On a remarqué que les Derviches excitaient particulièrement les Musulmans au massacre. Beaucoup de meurtres isolés et clandestins ont été commis les jours suivants dans la ville. La plupart des victimes ont été frappées à coups de hâche et de barres de fer.	Les soldats de garde envoyés un peu tardivement au Vice-Consulat de France murmuraient hautement d'être ainsi empêchés de participer, comme leurs co-religionnaires, au massacre et au pillage.
	3 Octobre ..	..	..	Une nouvelle alerte se produit	Le Vali se rend au bazar et parvient à calmer l'effervescence des Musulmans.
Sivas (*suite*) ..	..	..	..	Dans un rayon de 10 kilom. autour de la ville, une foule de villages Arméniens ont été détruits et les habitants massacrés. Le nombre des victimes ne peut pas être fixé. Tous les moyens sont employés pour obliger les Chrétiens à signer des déclarations dans lesquelles les Arméniens sont représentés comme les provocateurs, et à dénoncer leurs co-religionnaires.	L'autorité fait faire des perquisitions dans les maisons Musulmanes pour rechercher les objets volés, mais elle charge de cette mission un certain Selim Oglou qui s'est particulièrement distingué dans le pillage des villages voisins.
Guru	12 Novembre ..	Plus de 1,000	..	La ville assiégée par 2,000 Kurdes qui ne sont, affirme-t-on, que des Rédifs déguisés, contient 4,000 Arméniens. Après quatre jours de résistance la ville est prise. Mille Arméniens, réfugiés dans leur église, auraient déposé leurs armes et auraient été épargnés. On ne peut citer le nombre des Arméniens massacrés ; cependant des nouvelles officielles, parvenues à Sivas, permettent d'affirmer qu'il a été très considérable. Le 28 Novembre, 1,200 cadavres gisaient encore dans les rues sans sépulture. 1,000 maisons Arméniennes ont été brûlées, 500 ont été pillées, les églises l'ont été également. 150 femmes ou jeunes filles ont été enlevées par les Kurdes.	
Chabin-Kara-Hissar-Charki	27, 28, 29 Octobre, 1er Novembre	Plus de 3,000 dans la région	..	Des scènes de pillage et de massacres se produisent dès la fin d'Octobre. Le 1er Novembre plus de 2,000 personnes se trouvaient réfugiées dans l'église Arménienne-Grégorienne. Obligées de se rendre elles ont été massacrées. Les femmes et les enfants n'ont pas été épargnés. On estime à plus de 3,000 les personnes qui ont été massacrées dans la région de Chabin-Kara-Hissar-Charki ; les femmes, les jeunes filles, et les enfants ont été en grand nombre violés et tués. Près de trente villages ont été saccagés. Parmi les plus éprouvés on peut citer : Enderés, Bousseyr. Anerli, Tamzara, Sirdik, Pourk, Sis, Moucheïnotz, Arpouter, Anergue, Tsiferi, Oeghin, Armoutlagh ; 40 à 50 pour cent de la population Arménienne a péri.	
Tokat	15 Novembre ..	..	..	Des bandes de pillards essaient de pénétrer dans Tokat ; elles sont repoussées par la troupe. Mais 150 Arméniens soupçonnés de faire partie des Comités secrets, sont arrêtés. Tous les villages environnants dans la plaine de Ard-Ova sont brûlés et pillés. Les pillards, lorsqu'ils ne pouvaient emporter toutes les provisions trouvées dans les maisons Arméniennes, répandaient sur elles du pétrole afin de les rendre inutilisables pour ceux qui survivraient au massacre.	Le Commandant militaire a fait preuve d'une réelle énergie pour assurer la protection de la ville. Les Imams et les troupes ont participé au massacre. Le Mutessarif Békir Pacha a fait preuve d'une grande énergie dans la répression des désordres causés par les Musulmans, en dépit de la résistance d'Eshem Bey, Commandant des Rédifs, et des menaces de ses co-religionnaires.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Zeitoun	28 Novembre ..	200	..	Un massacre a eu lieu dans cette localité. 200 Arméniens ont péri et 300 maisons ont été pillées.	
Amasia ..	15-16 Novembre	1,000 environ	..	Les Musulmans attaquent les Arméniens, pillent les maisons et les boutiques et massacrent les Chrétiens. Tous leurs établissements, y compris les moulins et les chantiers, sont saccagés. D'après les données officielles, il n'y aurait eu que quatre-vingts victimes. D'après les informations des Consuls, leur nombre se monterait à un millier. Le Yeshil Irmak notamment charrie un grand nombre de cadavres.	
Marsivan	15 Novembre ..	150	500	Une foule de Musulmans se jette sur les Chrétiens; 150 Arméniens sont tués; 500 environ sont blessés. Les maisons et les boutiques, au nombre de 100, sont pillées. Les assassins ont même emporté les vêtements des morts dont les cadavres restaient nus dans les rues, sans sépulture.	Les soldats ont participé au massacre et au pillage. Le Caimacam a essayé de forcer les Pères Jésuites à signer une déclaration affirmant que la provocation était venue des Arméniens.
Khavza.. ..	12 Novembre ..	10	..	Des désordres se produisent, au cours desquels dix Arméniens sont tués et les boutiques tenues par les Chrétiens, pillées.	
Vézir-Keupru ..	Décembre ..	200	..	Des troubles éclatent dans cette localité. Le chiffre des victimes parmi les Arméniens, que les renseignements officiels fixent à trente-huit, serait, d'après les informations des Consuls, de plus de 200; 300 maisons sont pillées.	

Vilayet d'Alep.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Alep	..	..	..	Au mois de Septembre, la présence d'émissaires Arméniens est signalée dans le vilayet et cause une certaine agitation parmi les populations Musulmane et Chrétienne. Leur action demeure du reste sans grand effet sur les villageois Arméniens, qui les invitent à quitter le pays. L'annonce des réformes décidées par Sa Majesté le Sultan et qui —faute d'être publiées— sont interprétées par les Arméniens comme leur conférant des privilèges nouveaux et par les Musulmans comme les subordonnant aux Chrétiens et ne s'appliquant pas à eux, excite les esprits et anime, les uns contre les autres, les populations de religions différentes. D'autre part, la conduite des Rédifs convoqués pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre contribue à le troubler. Ils disent ouvertement que, puisqu'on leur fait quitter leurs foyers, on doit les laisser libres de piller et de supprimer les Chrétiens. Alep même a subi plusieurs paniques, mais a pu éviter une effusion de sang. Malheureusement dans tous les cazas du vilayet, des villages entiers ont disparu et la population de plusieurs milliers d'Arméniens demeure sans abri et en proie à la faim et à la misère.	Si les démarches des Consuls auprès des Arméniens contribuent à ramener le calme dans les esprits, celles qu'ils font auprès des autorités sont accueillies avec une indifférence notoire. Elles échouent devant l'optimisme voulu du Vali, Hasan Pacha, l'impuissante bonne volonté de quelques rares fonctionnaires, la tolérance ou la complicité des autres. Ce n'est que lorsque tout est fini que l'autorité songe à prendre les mesures nécessaires. La Commission instituée à Alep auprès du Conseil Administratif, pour juger les perturbateurs, fonctionne d'une manière déplorable.
Alexandrette ..	7 Novembre ..	..	..	Une panique est causée par l'annonce d'une prétendue attaque dirigée contre la ville par les Arméniens du village de Beilan. L'état de la ville demeure toujours troublé. Pendant plusieurs jours, des employés de la douane ont parcouru les cafés et les rues de la ville, armés de revolvers et de fusils de contrebande saisis en douane. Le Gouverneur ne fait rien pour rappeler ces fonctionnaires à leurs devoirs.	On signale l'attitude provocante des soldats de passage dans le port, qui se vantent hautement d'avoir pris part aux massacres de l'intérieur.
Antioche ..	20 Novembre ..	..	..	La localité de Kessab, près d'Antioche, est cernée par les troupes, qui menacent de massacrer les Arméniens s'ils ne livrent pas leurs armes.	
Aintab.. ..	15-17 Novembre	1,000	..	Les Musulmans se jettent sur les Chrétiens et en massacrent un millier. Une attaque contre le Couvent des Pères Franciscains échoue. Entre Aintab et Ouzoun Yalla, les actes commis par les Musulmans ont été particulièrement atroces.	

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Aintab (*suite*) ..	..	..	..	**D'après les données officielles, le nombre des morts s'élèverait à** 150, dont 50 Musulmans. D'après l'enquête des Consuls, un artisan Arménien ayant été tué, sans aucune provocation, par un soldat venant de Biredjik, les Turcs se précipitent en pleine foire sur les Arméniens et en tuent immédiatement 300. La populace se porte ensuite sur les quartiers Arméniens, où elle rencontre, du reste, une certaine résistance. Cependant le lendemain et le surlendemain le pillage continue. Un commencement de massacre est rapidement arrêté.	Les Rédifs se sont mal comportés. Plusieurs d'entre eux déserteurs, ont été vus à Alep en possession d'objets pillés, de vases et d'ornements sacrés. Les Hamidiés ont du reste pris la part la plus active au pillage et au massacre.
	25 Décembre	..	..	Depuis les derniers jours de Décembre la ville est le proie des flammes.	
Biredjik ..	..	..	..		
			..		
Orfa	27–28 Octobre ..	Plusieurs centaines		Les Kurdes et les Hamidiés font un grand massacre des Chrétiens. Les blessés sont très nombreux ; 1,500 boutiques sont pillées. On attribue l'origine des désordres à une rixe entre un Turc et un Arménien ; l'Arménien ayant été tué, ses compatriotes tuent à leur tour le Musulman.	Un grand nombre de Chrétiens ont été sous menace de mort contraints de se convertir à l'Islamisme. Ceux qui se sont soumis ont arboré des drapeaux blancs sur leurs maisons et se sont coiffés de turbans blancs. Ils ont été ainsi épargnés. Les Rédifs appelés pour rétablir l'ordre ont pris part au pillage et au massacre.
	28 Décembre ..	..	..	Un nouveau massacre d'Arméniens a lieu. Les autorités avouent 900 morts. D'après les Consuls, leur nombre dépasserait 2,000. Les Kurdes et les Bédouins commettent des cruautés sans exemple et les troupes sont impuissantes à rétablir l'ordre. Ce dernier massacre a duré depuis le 28 Décembre jusqu'au 1er Janvier.	
Marache ..	23 Octobre ..	40	..	A la suite d'une rixe entre un Arménien et un Musulman, les Turcs attaquent les Arméniens et en tuent quarante.	La connivence des autorités et le concours des Rédifs sont établis par l'enquête de différents Consuls.
	3 Novembre ..	350	..	Nouvelle attaque des Arméniens par les Musulmans, qui en tuent près de 350.	
	18 „ ..	Plus de 1,000	..	Nouveau massacre annoncé d'avance par les Musulmans. Plus de 1,000 Arméniens périssent. L'autorité affirme que le nombre des victimes ne dépasse pas trente. Les établissements de la Mission Américaine, le "Theological Seminary," et "l'Academy Boarding-house" sont saccagés par les troupes elles-mêmes. Le séminaire est incendié. La Mission Franciscaine est épargnée, mais son Drogman est tué devant l'établissement, en face des soldats, qui demeurent impassibles.	

Marache (*suite*) ..	..	..	..	Dans la région de Marache, à un endroit appelé El Oglou, une caravane de 250 Chrétiens est attaquée par des Kurdes qui la pillent et la massacrent.	
Yénidjé-Kalé ..	..	..	..	Dès la fin d'octobre les religieux Franciscains de la région réclament en vain le secours de l'autorité de Marache.	
	17 Novembre ..	..	..	Un rassemblement de troupes arrive au bourg de Medjid-Déressi, tout près de Yénidjé-Kalé et, au son du clairon, se jette sur le Quartier, le pille, puis met le feu à quelques maisons.	C'est la troupe elle-même, sous la conduite de ses officiers, qui a procédé au massacre et au pillage.
	18 „ ..	..	..	Les soldats cavalcadent d'hospice de Medjid-Déressi et tuent le Père Salvatore. Puis ils se portent sur Yénidjé-Kalé où ils brûlent toutes les habitations et le Couvent des Franciscains. Trois religieux et une quinzaine d'orphelins réussissent à se sauver à Zeitoun.	
		600	..	On compte 600 morts dans les villages de Yénidjé-Kalé, Medjid-Déressi, Cotekli, Tchuruk-Tach, Djeven, Bunduk, et Barik. Le village de Doni Kalé a été saccagé et brûlé. Le Couvent des Franciscains a été détruit et on est sans nouvelles des religieux.	

[Illegible]

Vilayet d'Adana.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Mersina et Adana	31 Octobre ..	..	..	Des [illegible] Arméniens, [illegible] qui [illegible] pas [illegible] Arméniens, [illegible] un grand nombre [illegible] bourgeois [illegible] Mersina, [illegible] dans tout [illegible] pillages [illegible]. Parmi les localités saccagées on peut citer : **Hamzalu, où neuf maisons et seize boutiques ont été brûlées et six fermes pillées et brûlées.** **Tépé-Tach, où sept fermes ont été pillées et brûlées.** **Kiuirtli, qui a eu quarante maisons saccagées.** **Ak Pounar, qui a eu trente maisons saccagées.** **Kara Merlen, qui a eu vingt maisons saccagées.** **Kara Kia, qui a eu dix maisons saccagées**	Le Vali d'Adana, Faik Pacha, au lieu de présider aux mesures propres à maintenir l'ordre, est en tournée dans le vilayet et veut ignorer les événements. Le Défterdar, Gérant du vilayet, Mehemet Midhat, fomente l'agitation par des mesures injustifiées contre des Chrétiens inoffensifs. L'autorité désarme les Chrétiens et, par contre, tolère la présence en ville d'une foule insolite de Musulmans armés.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements — Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
	14 Décembre	..	..	**Un mouvement anti-Chrétien avait été préparé à Mersina pour** ce jour-là, en même temps qu'à Tarsous, avec une évidente préméditation de la part des Musulmans. Le Lieutenant-Colonel Essad Bey disipe les rassemblements.	Nazim Bey, Mutessarif de Mersina, agit de son mieux pour poursuivre les coupables.
Tarsous ..	..	..	..	**Un prêtre Arménien est souffleté par un Turc.**	
	15 Décembre ..	..	..	**Une bande de Musulmans armés de barres de fer, de couteaux et** de bâtons, parcourt la ville. Nazim Bey, aidé du Caimacam, d'Essad Bey, du Médecin de quartier, Nazmi Aziz, ont réussi à les arrêter. Quelques Européens ont été battus et deux Arméniens sont tués.	**Le Vali affirme au Commandant du croiseur Français, le "Linois,"** que jamais la tranquillité n'a été troublée dans le vilayet (22 Novembre), et cependant il est à noter que les troubles ont éclaté partout où Fakk Pasha a passé pendant sa tournée.
				Le mot d'ordre a été donné par les Turcs, tenus de Circasses, qui ont tué le fils d'un missionnaire américain, reprochant aux Musulmans de Tarsous de ne point faire de prêt.	
Massis ..	Mi-Novembre ..	..	..	**L'Eglise Arménienne est profanée, la femme du prêtre violée, et** le prêtre lui-même emprisonné par des Turcs, aidés de soldats et de zaptiés. L'attaque a été conduite par un officier.	
Hadjin ..	..	..	..	**Un massacre des Chrétiens a failli se produire**	**Le Caimacam avait donné l'ordre du massacre, qui** n'a été empêché que par l'intervention du Cadi et du Mufti.
	16 Octobre ..	..	..	**Le village de Chakr, à deux heures de Sis, dans le district de Hadjin, a été** attaqué par des Kurdes. Les 800 habitants se sont réfugiés à Hadjin.	
Paras	27 Octobre ..	..	..	**Des troubles éclatent dans la ville, causés par la nouvelle des** massacres et des pillages dans toute la région.	**Les Chrétiens consentent à se désarmer si les Turcs** le font aussi. Cette seconde condition n'est pas remplie. Les soldats assistent impassibles aux attaques des Kurdes et des Musulmans contre les Chrétiens.
	11 Novembre ..	..	..	**Les villages d'Odjakli et de Uzerli (200 maisons) sont pillés et** brûlés.	
	10 " ..	..	..	**Le hameau de Bostanz est pillé et brûlé. Parmi les morts se** trouve un Grec.	
		300	..	**Parmi les villages saccagés on peut citer :** Il existe un nombre de bétail et une grande quantité de céréales sont pillés. Kavak, Kurdi-Kolak, Kiredjez, Dachkesagh, Nedjarly, et quelques autres. 40 Arméniens sont massacrés. Les pertes matérielles sont estimées à £ T. 50,000.	**De jeunes Arméniens, garçons et filles, sont vendus** comme esclaves.
Ieni-Medjid ..	13 Novembre ..	..	..	**Cette localité est attaquée par des bandes de Musulmans, de** Kurdes, et de Circassiens. 6,000 Chrétiens environ échappés aux massacres de la région, s'y étaient réfugiés. Les morts et	**Les troupes, composées de 200, puis de 800** hommes, assistent à cette attaque sans s'y opposer.

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				les blessés sont en très grand nombre. Les habitants, cernés de tous côtés, se rendent, puissent le 21 Novembre par l'intermédiaire du Vali, à la condition que les Turcs seront également désarmés. **Cette condition n'a pas été remplie.**	
				Dès que les Chrétiens eurent déposé leurs armes, quelques Musul- mans tuèrent cinq Arméniens. Quelques jours après, un nouveau massacre a lieu. Les Arméniens, **dans cette région, de tomber aux cadavres en putréfaction** demeurent sans sépulture dans la campagne.	
Akbès	11 Novembre ..	..	..	**L'établissement des religieux Lazaristes d'Akbès et celui des** Trappistes de Ghrâlé (Caza de Kassa, Sandjak de Djebel-Bereket), sont victimes de pillage de la part des Kurdes.	**Mohamed Ali Effendi, Général du Caimacam** détourne le danger.
	21 Décembre ..	..	..	**Dans les derniers jours de Décembre, les Lazaristes sont de** nouveau victimes de pillage et d'incendie.	
				Au commencement de Décembre, les Musulmans attaquent et saccagent les localités de : Gorbeit Beranbeli. Kiaus, dont les maisons sont au grand complet d'habitants.	
				Le pays est terrorisé par les Beys Turcs de Tarsous, Caïmacam de Kassa, Ali et Youssef, qui les excitent au meurtre. Les Chrétiens et ont déjà fait piller à Bakdaelli, entre Akbès et Arsambeyli, une maison servant de chapelle aux missionnaires, où les objets de culte ont été profanés.	

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Vilayet d'Angora.

Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements — Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Angora .	Octobre Novembre	..	..	**Les événements de Constantinople du 30 Septembre produisent** une vive agitation parmi les Musulmans. On constate cependant que l'agitation recommence en Novembre. Les Musulmans s'arment à Angora et dans tout le vilayet, alors qu'aucun fait hostile des Arméniens, visés par les Turcs, ne justifie ces préparatifs. Ainsi la crainte augmente-t-elle chaque jour chez les Chrétiens. Angora n'ayant que 100 hommes de garnison, la situation n'est pas sûre. Les publications des Hodjas, envoyés dans le vilayet pour recommander la conciliation, paraissent produire un effet tout contraire chez les Musulmans.	**Les autorités prennent quelques mesures de police** pour maintenir l'ordre. Aucune surveillance sérieuse n'est exercée sur les Circassiens immigrés qui font surveiller et insulter les villages et terrorisent Chrétiens et Musulmans.

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Localités.	Dates.	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes.	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Angora (*suite*) ..	20 Décembre ..	..	..	Une panique très vive règne dans la ville pendant deux jours. Il paraît certain que les Turcs ont reçu d'attaquer les Chrétiens. Les Imams dans les mosquées ont recommandé aux Musulmans de s'armer et de se tenir prêts. On remarque dans la ville un nombre inusité de villageois Musulmans et de Circassiens. Les Chrétiens ferment leurs boutiques. Aucun désordre ne se produit grâce aux mesures prises.	Le Vali, Maréchal Tewfik Pacha, fait circuler de nombreuses patrouilles.
Césarée ..	Octobre Novembre ..	..	..	Dès le mois d'Octobre on craint des troubles. En Novembre, les Kurdes Hamidiés menacent d'envahir la ville. [illegible] villages Chrétiens du district sont pillés et les habitants massacrés. Les localités exclusivement Arméniennes d'Ekrek et de Moudjoarsouna, notamment, comptaient 2,000 maisons, ont été dévastées et toute la population y compris les femmes, massacrée.	L'autorité fait mobiliser douze bataillons, les soldats de huit entre eux se révoltent et désertent.
	30 Novembre ..	1,000	300	Un siège, présidé depuis plusieurs jours par les Musulmans, [illegible] sur. Le Turcs se précipitent en masse sur les boutiques et les maisons des Arméniens. De familles entières sont massacrées. Les hommes sont envahis, les femmes et les enfants outragés, chassés nus dans les rues, égorgés et mutilés; des vieillards sont brûlés vifs dans leurs maisons. Des survivants sont contraints de se convertir à l'Islamisme. Le pillage et l'incendie continuent deux jours.	Les autorités ont montré la plus grande inertie, et n'ont intervenues que le lendemain soir. Seules, les Missions Américaines et celle des Jésuites ont été protégées. Encore ceux-ci sont ils restés vingt-quatre heures sans garde. Quelques Musulmans ont sauvé des Arméniens. Un officier supérieur de la garnison a déclaré que si l'autorité n'y avait mis d'obstacle, il aurait étouffé sur l'heure le soulèvement et empêché ainsi le massacre.
Yuzgat ..	Octobre, Novembre, Décembre.	..	..	Dès Octobre, cette région est très troublée; quatre villages du district d'Akdagh-Maden et cette localité sont saccagés et leurs habitants massacrés par les Kurdes et les Circassiens. La situation devient critique à Yuzgat où les Circassiens en armes circulent et répandent la terreur.	
Tekoun ..	20 Novembre ..	4	12	A la suite d'une rixe quelques désordres se produisent.	L'autorité tolère leur présence.
Hadjikeui ..	Novembre ..	..	..	Une bande de 250 Circassiens pille et incendie le village et massacre 70 Chrétiens et Musulmans.	

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Mutesarriflik d'Ismidt.

Localités.	Dates	Morts.	Blessés.	Récit des Événements.—Leurs Causes	Attitude des Autorités et de la Population.
Ak Hissar ..	3 Octobre ..	50	33	Cette localité était habitée par cinquante familles Arméniennes englobées au milieu de Circassiens et de Mohadjirs. Le jour habituel du marché, le Mudir de Ak-Hissar persuada aux Arméniens de faire la livraison de leurs armes en vue d'éviter toute cause de trouble avec les Musulmans. Puis, sous le prétexte d'une discussion survenue entre un Circassien et un marchand Arménien, sur le prix d'une marchandise, les Circassiens se jetèrent sur les Arméniens, en massacrant une cinquantaine, en blessant très grièvement trente-trois, et dévastèrent le village. Cinquante autres Arméniens ont disparu. Les cadavres, horriblement mutilés, furent jetés dans deux puits et quelques-uns dans le fleuve Saccharia. Les vengeurs Assomptionnistes, venus sur les lieux, retirèrent trente-cinq cadavres des puits. Les pertes matérielles sont estimées à **£ T. 15,000.** Dans plusieurs villages aux environs de Guivé, des Arméniens ont été tués; à Turemen, quinze jeunes gens Arméniens, étant, selon leur habitude, sortis avec des Turcs, pour couper du bois dans la forêt, furent assaillis par ces derniers et tués à coups de hache.	Le Caïmacam de Guivé, averti des mauvaises intentions des Circassiens de Ak-Hissar, fit des efforts impuissants pour arrêter le massacre. Le Mutesarrif d'Ismidt, prévenu de l'événement, se rendit sur les lieux et, dans un rapport qu'il fit à son retour, déclara que l'incident était sans importance. Ce ne fut qu'après, sur les instances de l'Évêque Arménien et des religieux Assomptionnistes, qu'il les autorisa à se rendre à Ak-Hissar pour secourir les blessés et recueillir les morts. Des arrestations furent opérées dans la suite, mais plusieurs Circassiens, les plus compromis, s'échappèrent de prison et la répression a été nulle.

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No. 117.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 30, 1896.

AT Prince Lobanoff's diplomatic reception last week I asked his Excellency whether he had anything to communicate to me respecting the note I had addressed to him on the subject of the suggested instructions to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

His Excellency informed me that he had already communicated his reply through M. de Staal.

On my asking him whether he could inform me of the tenour of his answer, his Excellency merely said that he had pointed out "les inconvénients" of such a step as that proposed.

His Excellency then proceeded to enlarge upon the mistake it would be to tie the Sultan hand and foot just when His Majesty required all his strength, authority, and freedom to carry out the reforms which had been imposed upon him, and to restore order in the Empire; adding that all the Imperial Government required was peace and tranquillity in the East.

I said that it was certain that Her Majesty's Government desired the same thing, and that therefore the only point of difference between the two Governments appeared, from what his Excellency had just said, to be in the method of attaining that end. Prince Lobanoff replied that it seemed to him that England wanted much more, and appeared to be aiming at a radical change in the position of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

In discussing the same subject yesterday, his Excellency read to me the despatch which he had addressed to M. de Staal on the subject—in order that I might know the reasons why he could not approve of such an idea.

In reply, I again impressed upon his Excellency the limits of the suggested instructions to the Ambassadors, which were that the Ambassadors should be only authorized to endeavour among themselves to devise a remedy for an unsupportable and dangerous state of affairs, and that the decision as to the practicability or advisability of any measure they might propose would rest with the Governments of the Powers concerned.

That, I said, was the gist of your Lordship's proposal as communicated by me, and it seemed to me that to suppose that the Ambassadors would at once propose a "tutelle" on the part of the Powers, and that their Governments would necessarily accept that proposal, was, to say the least of it, premature.

His Excellency answered that your Lordship's proposal seemed simple in itself, but that "les pentes à Constantinople étaient très glissantes," and that he foresaw that it might end in such a "tutelle," which would be contrary to existing Treaties, and to which he personally would be much opposed. He added, besides, that the discussions amongst the Ambassadors would inevitably become known at once, as always happened at Constantinople, and that reports of the interference of the Powers would soon fly through the country, stimulating the discontented elements of the population to fresh agitation, and not improbably causing the whole turmoil and disorder of the past months to begin over again.

I again pointed out to his Excellency that comparatively recent events showed that the era of turmoil and disorder was not yet over, that little or nothing had been done to carry out the reforms, and that until something effectual was done in that direction there would be no certainty of order being permanently restored. The spring was approaching, and delay was dangerous, and therefore it appeared to me that anything which could possibly accelerate the work of restoring order and insuring better government should be welcomed by all the Powers interested in the question.

His Excellency, however, clung to the idea that the Sultan was doing his utmost, and must be given time; and that any interference on the part of the Powers would only hamper his efforts and weaken his authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 118.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, January* 31, 1896.

IN several recent conversations which I have had with my French and Austro-Hungarian colleagues, allusions have been made to a proposal which your Lordship was supposed to have made to the Russian Government with regard to a scheme for putting Turkey under the tutelage of the European Powers.

I told my colleagues that I was unaware of your Lordship having made any proposal of the sort, although I was aware that you had instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh to communicate to Prince Lobanoff a suggestion made by Sir Philip Currie, that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be instructed to discuss the situation with the view of suggesting some remedy for the existing state of things. This suggestion could not be considered as a definite proposal, and was merely made because Sir Philip Currie found that M. de Nélidoff did not consider himself authorized to enter into discussions with his colleagues as to the general state of the Turkish Empire.

Your Lordship's despatch to Sir E. Monson No. 11 of the 25th instant, of which you did me the honour to inclose a copy in your despatch No. 27 of the 29th instant, explained to me the misunderstanding which had arisen, and I took an opportunity this morning of alluding to it in a conversation with Baron von Marschall.

His Excellency said that it appeared that Mr. Goschen had addressed an official note to Prince Lobanoff on the subject, and that this had probably given his Excellency the opportunity of attaching more importance to the subject than would have been possible if only a verbal communication had been made, and of interpreting it, probably for his own purposes, as a definite proposal that the Powers should interfere directly in the internal affairs of Turkey.

I replied that, however this might be, your Lordship had certainly not made any definite proposal of any sort, and that you recognize that a want of unanimity among the Powers would entail greater calamities than those which now existed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 119.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 3, 1896. *noon.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush telegraphs to-day as follows:—

"Turkish Government being unable to pay any salaries, families of police are without food or fire. Many Christian and Mussulman families are starving.

"This district, however, is better off than any other, but there is neither work nor money to be found."

The Relief Committee have sent remittances and will continue to do so.

No. 120.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 3, 1896, 2 P.M.

MR. BARNHAM telegraphed from Zeitoun yesterday as follows:—

"This afternoon I visited the Zeitoun river and saw the bodies of the Turkish soldiers who were killed by the Zeitounlis. One of them admitted yesterday that 230 had been massacred. In many cases they are tied hand to hand, their heads split open by axes, or they are killed by sword cuts or shots, and in some cases their hands and

feet cut off. One of the Turkish authorities told me that a zaptieh had his eyes cut out, filled with gunpowder, and his head blown to pieces."

I don't see any reason to doubt this story.

No. 151.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 3, 1896, 2·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 79 of the 29th January, respecting the conversion of Armenians at Birejik, Mr. Fitzmaurice has been accepted by the Sultan as Delegate to inquire into the matter, and I have therefore directed him to proceed there.

No. 152.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 30.) *Washington, January 28, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 206 of the 20th August last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Congressional Record" of the 24th instant,* giving the text of certain concurrent Resolutions on the subject of recent outrages in Armenia, which were favourably reported to the Senate by the Committee on Foreign Relations, and containing a report of the proceedings in the Senate upon them. The Resolutions express the hope that the European Powers acting in concert will take decisive measures to stay the outrages and promise the President the support of Congress in the most vigorous action he may take for the protection of Armenian citizens in Turkey. They were adopted after a vehement anti-British speech by Mr. Frye, Senator from Maine. A substitute proposed by the Senator from Florida, Mr. Call, was left to lie on the table.

I also have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Congressional Record" of the 27th instant,* reporting the debate in the House of Representatives on the same Resolutions. They were eventually passed in the form in which they left the Senate, after various amendments had been proposed and rejected.

The most violent of these was moved by Mr. Bingham, from Iowa, calling on the President to summarily dismiss the Turkish Minister.

Another proposed by the representative from Ohio, Mr. Tait, declared "that one of the Signatory Powers which first takes action under the Berlin Treaty . . . . will receive the grateful recognition, not only of the American people, but of the entire civilized world."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

* Not printed.

No. 153.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 6.)

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres, le 5 Février, 1896.

M. le Marquis,

PENDANT le cours des dernières semaines, un nombre considérable de télégrammes et de Pétitions ont été adressées au Palais Impérial à Constantinople aussi bien qu'à la Sublime Porte, par des Evêques, des ecclésiastiques, et des habitants Notables appartenant aux communautés Arméniennes, Grégorienne et Catholique, aussi bien qu'à d'autres rites Chrétiens, domiciliés dans de nombreuses localités de l'Asie Mineure. Les Signataires de ces documents ont principalement pour objet de répudier toute connection et toute solidarité avec les agitateurs qui sont en très

grande partie responsables des désordres dont ces régions ont été le théâtre, et assurer le Gouvernement Impérial de leurs sentiments de fidélité et de loyauté.

Je prends la liberté de transmettre ci-inclus à votre Seigneurie, à titre d'informations, la traduction de quelques-unes de ces pièces, et je crois qu'elles ne sont pas dépourvues d'importance, comme faisant voir que la partie éclairée et respectable de la population Chrétienne des districts où des troubles se sont malheureusement produits, ne s'est en aucune façon associée aux intrigues et aux menées séditieuses qui ont provoqué ces regrettables événements.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) ANTHOPOULO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Résume of Telegrams from the Ulemas and Mussulman Notables of Marash addressed to the Sublime Porte, December 29 (v. s.), 1895.

(Traduction.)

LES Ulémas et les Notables Musulmans de Marach, ainsi que quelques femmes Musulmanes des villages voisines de Zeitoun, ont envoyés le 29 Décembre dernier (v. s.) au Palais Impérial des télégrammes par lesquels ils se plaignent des actes de cruauté commis par les insurgés de Zeitoun, lesquels, dans le but de détruire les habitants Musulmans des environs, après avoir emporté dans les montagnes les habitants de plus de quinze villages, ont rendu les plus grands outrages aux femmes et aux enfants et brûlé leurs maisons.

(Suivent 80 signatures.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Résumé of the Petition from the Notables and Ecclesiastical Chiefs of Diarbekir addressed to the Authorities of the Vilayet, January 19, 1896.

(Traduction.)

LES chefs ecclésiastiques et les Notables Syriens de Diarbékir ont présenté aux autorités Impériales de ce vilayet une requête par laquelle ils protestent de leurs sentiments de fidélité envers le Gouvernement Impérial, qui les a toujours couverts de sa protection et expriment leur indignation contre les agitateurs Arméniens qui ont été seuls fauteurs des derniers désordres survenus en cette ville.

(Suivent 25 signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 153.

Résumé of the Letter of Thanks sent by the Vicar of the Syrian Patriarch at Constantinople to the Sublime Porte, January 2 (14), 1896.

(Traduction.)

LE Vicaire du Patriarche Syrien à Constantinople a adressé une lettre le 2 (14) Janvier, 1896, au Ministère de la Justice, pour protester des sentiments de dévouement des Syriens envers le Gouvernement Impérial et se plaindre des actes d'agression dont ces derniers avaient été l'objet de la part des Arméniens pendant les derniers désordres.

Inclosure 4 in No. 153.

Résumé of the Telegrams of Thanks addressed by the Armenians of Ghevach and of Tireboli to the Grand Vizirat, December 29, 1895.

(Traduction.)

LES Notables Arméniens de Ghévach et de Tiréboli et les Catholiques d'Aintab ont envoyé au Grand Vizirat pour témoigner leur indignation contre les agitateurs Arméniens et exprimer leur reconnaissance des mesures prises par les autorités Impériales et grâce auxquelles les habitants de ces localités continuent à jouir d'une parfaite tranquillité.

(Suivent 39 signatures.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 153.

Résumé of the Telegrams of Thanks sent to the Sublime Porte on November 31, 1895, and January 12, 1896, by the Armenian Notables of Hamidié, Darendé, and Kizil-Monastir.

(Traduction.)

LE Catholicos de Sis et les Notables Arméniens de Hamidié, de Darendé, et de Kizil-Monastir ont envoyé à la Sublime Porte des télégrammes pour protester de leurs sentiments de dévouement envers Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et exprimer leur reconnaissance des mesures adoptées par les autorités Impériales et grâce auxquelles les habitants de ces localités continuent à jouir d'une parfaite tranquillité.

(Suivent 20 signatures.)

Inclosure 6 in No. 153.

Résumé of the Telegrams of Thanks from the Inhabitants of Kartchikian and d'Olbak addressed to the Sublime Porte on December 24 and 25 (v. s.), 1895.

(Traduction.)

NOUS habitants Arméniens de Kartchikian et d'Olbak manifestons notre indignation contre les révolutionnaires Arméniens et exprimons notre reconnaissance des mesures prises par le Gouvernement Impérial et grâce auxquelles l'ordre et la tranquillité sont parfaits.

(Suivent 39 signatures des Notables Arméniens.)

No. 154.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 21.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 77, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, reporting a visit paid to your Excellency by Abraham Pasha, at which he suggested the removal of Mgr. Izmirlian from his position as Armenian Patriarch.

I approve the language used by your Excellency in reply to this suggestion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 33.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 18, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, reporting your conversations with Prince Lobanoff on the suggestion which you were instructed to make to him that M. de Nélidoff should be authorized to discuss the general condition of the Turkish Empire with his colleagues at Constantinople, with the view of suggesting some remedy for the existing state of things.

I approve your language to his Excellency as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 71. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bengazi, giving information respecting the exile of Colonel Hassan Bey and others suspected of being in sympathy with the Young Turkey party.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Consul Alvarez to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Bengazi, November 23, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that when returning to my post from Constantinople I observed on board the steamer "Sacaria" several Turks of official position. Said Ghalib Bey, the new Kaïmakam of Merj, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mehemet Bey, the latter ordered to Bengazi and then to Tripoli to join his regiment, call for special remark, but a Lieutenant-Colonel of Cavalry, Hassan Bey of Daghestan, and his brother, a Lieutenant, both smart officers, attracted my attention. I made inquiries, and found they were exiled to Tripoli on suspicion of having taken part in the recent Liberal movement headed by Izzet Effendi. Hassan Bey's acquaintance was soon made, and although at first he was extremely reserved, his reserve eventually gave way, and he informed me that he had received his education at the St. Petersburgh Military College, had entered the Russian army, and, after serving with distinction in the campaign against the Turcomans, had left the service on account of the difficulty he experienced as a Mussulman of obtaining advancement, and settling at Constantinople, where he married the daughter of General Samyh Pasha, C.M.G., the Ottoman Commissioner for the surrender of Cyprus in 1878, had entered the Turkish army. On the denunciation of a brother officer, a Lieutenant employed as a spy, he and other officers of Liberal sympathies who were in the habit of meeting in the house of Murad Bey, Imperial Commissioner of the Public Debt Administration, were arrested and confined, first at Yildiz, where they were interrogated, and then at the Seraskierate. They were not allowed to see anybody, not even any member of their families. Hassan Bey told me that upwards of 500 Mussulmans had been arrested at Constantinople during the past month on suspicion of having taken part in the movements of the Young Turkey party or of the Old Turks. Among them was a large proportion of officers. Many of those arrested have been exiled to the more distant provinces of the Empire, such as the Hedjaz, Yemen, Bagdad, Mosul, &c.

Izzet Effendi had not been put to death, as was commonly supposed, but was strictly imprisoned in his own house at Stamboul, a public trial in his case being impossible on account of the disclosures which would have been made.

At the Dardanelles about 400 soldiers were put on board, of whom 100 or 120

were disembarked at Canea, 125 at Bengazi, and the remainder at Tripoli. Among those sent to Africa I was told there were many mutineers. With one or two exceptions, however, I did not notice any misbehaviour among them, notwithstanding the discomforts of the voyage.

On arriving at Bengazi I was told that a leading Khoja or Professor of Theology, whose name I was unfortunately unable to learn, was also on board, exiled to Tripoli for having instigated the Softas to rise, or on suspicion of having done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN ALVAREZ.

No. 157.

Sir F. Goldsmid to Foreign Office.—(Received February 8.)

Dear Sir Thomas Sanderson, *Hollinghourne, Kent, February 1, 1896.*

A LETTER dated Urmi, 6th January, 1896, from the Rev. A. E. Edington, head of the Archbishop's Assyrian Mission, and read before the monthly meeting of the Home Committee on Thursday last (at which I was unable to be present) has reached me by this day's post. It is not a month old, and may therefore be considered to represent the latest reported state of affairs in Urmi and Kurdistan, so far as the Mission is concerned. In forwarding what is very nearly a complete copy, I have not been unmindful of sparing you needless details; but it has seemed to me, while transcribing it, that, although some passages are almost repetitions of former communications from the same quarter, there is really little superfluous matter, if regarded in the light of evidence on the present condition of Eastern Christians, or that may not be useful to bear in mind in discussing the future well-being of Turkish Christian subjects. You will, I am sure, have long since realized the fact that there is a wide distinction between the circumstances of the Armenians and the Nestorians in Asiatic Turkey, and that any political provisions which the Porte may think essential to make in respect of the one would be wholly irrelevant in the case of the other community.

As to the Turkish side of the frontier, Mr. Edington expresses no surprise that his colleague, the Rev. W. H. Browne, is little heard of, and writes: "He cannot well send letters at the present time. The roads into Turkey are held by the Kurds and Turks, and no letter is knowingly allowed to pass. Anyone found with a letter upon him would get into very great trouble, and if that letter were found to contain Turkish news it would be confiscated, and the messenger would be imprisoned. I know a case of a man who wrote to his sons in England (Syrians) about the state of Turkey. The letter was discovered, and the man was put into prison, horribly treated, hung up by his feet, &c., and has now died on account of the cruelties done to him. Our messenger, if caught, would fare no better; and the Turks are so much on the look-out now that the man we employ, though well paid, absolutely refuses to take any more letters to the mountains."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. J. GOLDSMID.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Substance of a Letter, dated English Mission House, Urmi, Persia, January 6, 1896, to the address of the Reverend R. M. Blakiston, M.A., Honorary Secretary, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission to the Assyrian Christians.

One very important matter to be borne in mind is the difference between the characters, and therefore the acts, of the Armenians and the Nestorians. The Syrians are entirely non-political; they have no important men in the cities of Europe. With regard to the present persecution of the Armenians, the excuse is made, that they are always plotting against the Government; no such charge can be laid to the Syrians, however true it may be with regard to some of the Armenians. But just as the recent cruelties were visited on innocent and guilty alike among the Armenians, so these cruelties and murders have also happened to the Syrians, who are entirely innocent of any design against the Turkish Government.

Some distinction, I am told, is drawn by the Government of Turkey between the

Nestorians and the Armenians, but in the heat of any serious business, such as the raiding of villages or a massacre, such distinctions are likely to be, and have been, ignored; and the Kurds, in disturbed districts, have ignored them entirely. As an instance of this:—Some Armenians from Salmas went up from Persia to Van and encountered on their way the Hamidean Cavalry; fighting took place, after which the Kurds went and destroyed the neighbouring villages, both Persian and Turkish. Some of the villages such as Sara d'Mamadin were inhabited by the Nestorians, but they shared the same fate as the purely Armenian ones. I am told, further, that this distinction was not carried out only by the Kurdish Hamidean Cavalry, but that the Turkish regulars were there too, ready to join in the plunder. Again, five purely Nestorian villages in Albeg have been destroyed (and many men killed) just as the Armenian villages in the same district.

Further, there are many Christian villages around the town of Van, mostly Armenian; but six of them are Nestorian. These last have been destroyed and their people scattered; they are in great distress; and it is most probable that many have been killed.

Many Nestorians are in Biotan and the plain of Sapna, in the town of Amadia, as well as in its surrounding villages. There are also many (though the Maronite and Jacobite Christians greatly predominate) in Mesopotamia, in part, Bitlis, Kharput, Diarbekir, as far as Mount Lebanon. Rumours of serious disturbances have come from these districts, and, from analogy of what has happened elsewhere, it is most probable that there also, without distinction, the Syrians have shared the same fate as the Armenians. Yet the former are domestic and non-militant, void of any political aspirations.

The lack of political intrigue, however, does not arise from the absence of grievance. It is believed that until quite recently they have suffered greater hardships than the Armenians, and with far less ability to protect themselves. They are so heavily taxed that with all their care in rearing sheep they can hardly gain sufficient to pay the taxes demanded chiefly on them. The tax, though heavy, could be paid if that were the sole demand, but the sheep are continually carried off by the Kurds, little or no help towards recovery is given, and in the following year the Government claims the taxes of both the stolen sheep as well as those in the hands of the owners.

Mr. Edington proceeds to illustrate another hardship to which the Nestorians are subject through the unscrupulousness of the tax collector. In the first place, it is necessary to conciliate this official with a present. Then, independently of levying a tax on stolen property as well as property in actual possession, he sometimes omits to enter in his books the amount collected, disavows the official receipt he has given in evidence of payment, and eventually claims payment a second time, or for two years at once. Taxes are, moreover, collected at the most inconvenient season for payment.

Their greatest difficulties, he alleges, come from the Kurds, who frequently try to steal their sheep, burn their hay, &c. But they also contrive to extort money by less violent means. "I have been," are his words, "in the Matrán's" (the Nestorian Archbishop's) "house in Rochea, and the 'son of the Sheikh' has sent a message couched in polite terms, asking for so many sheep, suits of clothes, tobacco, &c., and the Matrán had to give whatever was asked for. If not he knew that many more sheep would be taken by force. A very short time ago the Matrán's mule was stolen and his land taken from him by this same man, and Kurds were quartered in his house to prevent him from sending letters of complaint about his various hardships, such as his oxen being stolen, his lands being taken from him, or his having to give up so many loads of corn, and many other troubles which are frequently coming upon him. And I have seen the like kind of extortion (without violence) in many Nestorian villages, but the violence would soon be shown if the request were refused."

The plain of Gawar is instanced as a district, partly ruined by the incursions of locusts, but wholly so through the oppressions of Turk and Kurd combined, so that the Nestorians are now almost driven out of it.

"Another favourite means adopted by the Turks of getting rid of their Christian subjects is by sending a number of Circassians to settle in their midst. It will [*sic*] well known and openly said by the Turks that the Circassians will soon cause the Christians to go away from that district.

The Turks, indeed, make a show of giving powers of self-government to the Christians by allowing them to become members of the District Council or Medjiss, but they are always in a minority, and it is well known that if only one Turk or Kurd were on the Council his vote and opinion would carry the matter, for he could cause the others to follow him in whatever way he wished the matter to be carried. It will be seen that

the presence of Christians on these Council Boards is rather an evil than a good, for they are forced to vote in a certain way, and the matter, when decided, appears as if it had the real consent of all Christians, Kurds, and Turks on the Medjliss, and European Governments are deceived into thinking that they have done a good thing for the Christians when they have put Christians on these Boards, just as they are deceived in thinking they have done a benefit to the Christians when they put the Christians in Persia under a (Musalmán generally) Governor or Serparast.

Again, the Turks make very good promises to the Nestorian Patriarch Mar Shiman, e.g., with regard to giving permission for schools in his name to be held in his villages, but the Turks ignore this permission as soon as they have given it; the teachers are imprisoned and fined, and the schools are closed. This happened last year in Mar Bishu, Pagi, and Syal, and has happened several times before. We have already written to Sir Philip Currie, who kindly made representation to the Porte on behalf of these schools, and possibly they might have been undisturbed this year (though I think not) but for a circumstance which I shall have hereafter to relate with reference to Mar Bishu.

The only people, at the present time, who have sufficient cause to hope to remain undisturbed during the coming spring are some of the "Ashiret" or independent tribes of Tiaa and Tkhuma. They are not taxed like the other Nestorians, but have to pay a tribute, and are under control of their own Chief. Some short time since the Turks made a strong attempt to enrol them, so that they might tax and bring them down to the level of the rest of the Nestorians. This attempt to destroy their independence and introduce Turkish soldiers and tax-collectors into their territory failed.

They still preserve their independence, and, being hemmed in by their mountains, may (by force of arms if necessary) be able to hold their own. But the rest of the Nestorian Christians, especially those on the frontier, will have, I am sure, great trouble in the spring, after the snow has gone. Only during the past few days the Shishaknai Kurds from Persia sent an armed force against the Nestorian village of Mar Bishu, the people heard in time, through the Turkish authorities, of their coming, and in accordance with the Government instructions resisted them, by occupying the passes and so fortunately were able to prevent the Shishaknai Kurds from effecting an entrance into the village. If the Turkish Government Order for the disarmament of the people is put in force, these people of Mar Bishu will in future be at the mercy of the Persian Kurds, to say nothing of the Kurds from Turkey.

The whole matter resolves itself into this: The Turks are far too weak to keep the Kurds in order, and are afraid to withstand them in any way, even if they wished to do so, for fear of the Kurds rising against the Government. This causes the Government to be weak and bad, in addition to its own inherent injustice and hatred of Christianity, and I need hardly point out what a bad effect these Kurdish oppressions and the injustice and incompetency of the Turkish Government must have both upon the Kurds and Government in Persia."

No. 158.

The Rev. W. H. Browne to the Archbishop of Canterbury.—(*Communicated by Sir F. Goldsmid, February 8, 1896.*)

My Lord Archbishop, *Qudshanis, December 8, 1895.*

I HAVE just received the news that the Sultan has conceded the reforms desired by the Powers. I beg to thank your Grace for all you have done in this matter, and every one will be grateful to your Grace and to the Government for the scheme of reforms. It will, however, be very necessary for the Ambassadors to see that the new provisions do not remain a dead letter, as the people have little capacity for availing themselves of their privileges.

Lately the Kurds in Albeg have carried off sheep, cattle, and corn from several villages in that district, and have killed some men. But I hear that the Government have sent troops to protect what are left, and we must think of the future.

There is no post from here to Urmi but a long route viâ Van. Letters, therefore, have to be sent by private messengers, and these, especially just now, run risks of punishment, by imprisonment and disgrace, if letters or newspapers are found on them. If your Grace could, at some convenient time, move the Foreign Office to secure that, on payment of postage, or a yearly sum, my letters could be taken and sent between

this and Urmi without delay, and without their being opened and read, it would be a great boon. We would pay our own messenger, and would pay for postage stamps as might be necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. BROWNE.

No. 159.

The Rev. A. R. Edington to the Rev. W. Blakiston.—(*Communicated by Sir F. Goldsmid, February 8, 1895.*)

My dear Blakiston, *English Mission, Urmi, Persia, January 9, 1896.*

A FEW weeks ago you wrote to me to say that if we or our people were in any danger I was to take such measures as seemed to me to be necessary. In my reply I told you I should certainly do that, by sending to the Persian authorities here, and also by writing to the Consul-General in Tabriz.

Last week, in answer to a request of Her Majesty's Minister in Tehran to let him know if I saw any signs of anti-Christian feeling spreading over the frontier, for the American Legation was not without fears on this matter, I replied pretty much as follows. That at present everything was quiet in Persia, that when any troubles arose they would in the first instance come from the Kurds on the frontier. At present the mountains were almost impassable on account of the winter snow, but that in the spring when the snow went, and when it was again possible to get about in the mountains we should certainly hear of great troubles on the frontier in Tergewar Broadusnai, and Magawar, and the Christian villages in those districts would, I felt sure, be attacked by the Kurds. Further, that it greatly depended upon the way in which the affairs were settled, or perhaps I should say were progressing between the Turks and Armenians. If things went on well in Constantinople the Persian Government would be encouraged to take strong measures for the protection of their Christian subjects, if not, the Kurds would probably act in any way that pleased them. Again, if the Kurds were successful against the Christians in the mountains they might descend to the plain and do much mischief, and if things came to extremes, the Mussulmans too might do a great deal of harm; but that at present matters were entirely quiet, but that I felt sure that the Kurds were only waiting for the snow to go.

This is my opinion, and I know it is shared by the others, for I showed my Tehran letter to them, and it was approved of by them, and I know also it is the opinion of the members of the American Mission, for I had a talk on the subject a few days ago with Dr. Cochran, the head of the American Presbyterian Mission. I do not suppose for a moment that there will be any danger for ourselves, but I do think there will be very considerable danger for our people in Tergewar Magawar and Broadusnai, and even if the Persians have the will, I do not know if they will be able to do much in the way of resisting the Kurds, unless they are able to do much better than they have done and are doing. The Christians with a free hand could do much better. Let me give you three examples to illustrate this.

In the summer the Herekai Kurds (nomads wandering between Persia and Mosul) came and attacked Magawar; the Persians sent an army up, it could do nothing against the Herekai Kurds, and, said the officers of the Persian army, it will be a great shame to us if we appear again without any booty in our hands, it will look as if we had done nothing, so they carried off sheep and cattle, corn and money from the Christians and friendly Kurds in Magawar, and came down. Fortunately we heard of it, and told the Governor of Urmi; he sent men, and the soldiers were met near the city with the spoil. This they had to give up, and, after representations were made to Tehran and Tabriz, the officers were heavily fined; some of these fines were given to the people who had been robbed, and the result is that they have got back half their losses nearly. I reported the case to Her Majesty's Legation, for I thought I might want the Minister's intervention in the event of next to nothing being recovered, and last week I reported that the people had received nearly half their losses, and as things go this was satisfactory, and so the matter was ended, and the people were fairly contented with the issue. This shows, I think, that the intervention of the Persian army is not so great a benefit as it would appear to those who know but little about the working of things in Persia.

The General in command told me some strange things about this expedition. When he was sent up with the army he had for all his guns only twenty-four rounds of

ammunition. He asked for more, but was told to go and fire off those first, and then he might ask for more. And I really do not think the Persian Government were much to blame. I do not know how he used the twenty-four, or if he used them all, but I know he used one, for he was sitting with his officers, and a man appeared at some distance; the question arose as to whether they could hit the man, so they tried, and the man was killed, but on going up to him they found he was a friendly Kurd, and that they ought not to have shot at him at all.

Now for my second point, that the Christians in some cases in which a free hand is left to them can protect themselves.

I can be brief over this, for I have already reported it in my letter of last week. The Sheshaknai Kurds are among the worst of that nation; they are wonderful horsemen, and very brave fighters. A few weeks ago, before much snow had fallen, they made up their minds to attack the village of Mar Bishu. So they crossed the frontier from Persia to Turkey, for the village of Mar Bishu is a Christian village on the frontier, just in Turkey. The people were warned of their coming, and were told by the Turkish authorities that they were to look out for themselves and to protect themselves. They therefore sent men to watch the various passes, and so the Sheshaknai Kurds were unable to get into the village, and now that snow has fallen in large quantities they will be unable to renew the attack. So you see that in some cases where the Christians have a free hand they can protect themselves. But how would it have been and how will it be for this village when the Turkish reform order comes into force, that the people in Turkey are to be disarmed? For the Kurds, like these from Persia, will then walk right into their villages and will do whatever they please. Then, do people really believe that the Government will dare to offend the Kurds in Turkey by disarming them? They will do what they did in Erzeroum, disarm the Christians only. (I believe I am correct in my statement of the action of the Turkish Government in Erzeroum, but I read the account hurriedly in the newspapers, and am not sure.)

So if you give the Christians fair play they are more capable of taking care of themselves than of being taken care of by others, given that the Government—Persian or Turks—is sincere in wishing to assist them.

The third point is that the Persian Government, the army being in its present rotten state, cannot help them.

Representations were made to the Persians by the Turks of the Persian Kurds trying to raid Turkish villages, *e.g.*, this one of Mar Bishu; so an army of 400 soldiers went up to Broadusnai against these Sheshaknai Kurds, but the Persian soldiers were beaten off, and could do nothing against the Kurds. The last I heard of the Persian army was that it was quartered in the Christian village of Gmgachin, and I suppose it will come down with its "spoils of war" as soon as it has cleared that village of all its food and of everything else worth having.

Now, to return again to Mar Bishu, I have told you of their success in beating off the Sheshaknai Kurds, but the people are such absolute fools that they have got themselves into a mess with the Government, and all over a walnut tree. Two men quarrelled over who should have it for firewood, and fought with hangers, that is to say, as far as I know, one side did, and two men are wounded. The Turks will come down and ruin the houses of both parties, and we shall be appealed to to help them against the oppressors. That is the worst of the Syrians, they act well in some things, then they entirely spoil everything by something else that they do.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR R. EDINGTON.

No. 160.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 36. Most Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Vienna, January 28, 1896.

I CALLED on Count Goluchowski the day before yesterday, and said that I wished to show him exactly what had been the nature of your Lordship's communication to Prince Lobanoff, the purport and scope of which had apparently been so much misunderstood both at St. Petersburgh and Vienna.

I accordingly allowed him to read the copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 2 to Mr. Goschen, which had reached me the previous day, and I pointed out to him that

nothing could be clearer than that you had simply requested Prince Lobanoff to give M. de Nélidoff powers of discussion already enjoyed by all his colleagues.

Count Goluchowski acknowledged that this was literally the case, but added that he could not yet understand what prevented M. de Nélidoff from joining in such discussions. It seemed to his Excellency that the Ambassadors at Constantinople had been doing nothing else for months past, and that such discussions are in fact part of the elementary business of diplomatists. What considerations now deterred M. de Nélidoff from taking part in them he was at a loss to imagine.

No. 161.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 2, 1896.*

KNOWING that Count Kapnist has been in constant communication recently with Count Goluchowski on the subject of your Lordship's application to Prince Lobanoff for more extensive powers of discussion for M. de Nélidoff, I thought it as well, when I called, the day before yesterday, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to take with me a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 11 of the 28th ultimo, in order that if Count Kapnist had been charged to make any formal communication, such as that submitted to your Lordship by M. de Staal, I might provide Count Goluchowski with the means of laying simultaneously before the Emperor your views on Prince Lobanoff's note.

Count Kapnist was with Count Goluchowski when I arrived at the Ministry, and when, in my turn, I was admitted to his Excellency's presence, I found that the Russian Ambassador had just delivered the Memorandum of which your Lordship had received communication from M. de Staal. He had been charged to do so confidentially as soon as he learned by telegram that M. de Staal had acted on his instructions.

I therefore at once gave Count Goluchowski, confidentially and unofficially, the copy of your Lordship's despatch, the greater part of which I read to him, and I said that I hoped that in laying before the Emperor Prince Lobanoff's Memorandum, he would, at the same time, show His Majesty your despatch.

This his Excellency said he would certainly do, and that he would at once have a translation into German made for the purpose, as His Majesty cannot read English.

He went on to observe that, without seeing Mr. Goschen's note to Prince Lobanoff, he could not pronounce himself positively, but that it certainly appeared to him that the Prince's apprehensions are without foundation.

As for the danger that the discussions of the six Ambassadors would assume the character of a Conference, and that the public knowledge of this would have serious results, his Excellency observed that the six Representatives had been in the habit of holding regular meetings once, or oftener, a-week for months past. They might continue to hold those meetings without attracting additional attention, and there would be no reason whatever for the outside public to know that the character of their discussions had in any way changed. Such a thing could only happen through an indiscretion, or by the deliberate intention of one of their number.

He apprehends, however, that it will be impossible to shake Prince Lobanoff's decision, and induce him to authorize M. de Nélidoff to take part in the discussions considered advisable by his colleagues of Austria, France, and England. He quite shares your Lordship's opinion as to the utility of entering on such a discussion, for which Baron Calice has the most ample powers.

Reverting to Prince Lobanoff's Memorandum, he begged me to let him see, confidentially, Mr. Goschen's note to the Prince, and I promised that on the occasion of my next visit I would show him a copy of it.

He several times expressed his entire concurrence in your Lordship's views, as stated in the despatch of which I had given him the copy; and I am of opinion that he has to some extent returned to his original conviction of the expediency of adopting the action advocated by Baron Calice and Sir Philip Currie, and especially, it would seem, by M. Cambon.

I am fortified in this opinion by the observations made to me by Count Nigra, when he called upon me yesterday, in a conversation which I will report fully in another despatch.

In redemption of the promise to Count Goluchowski above mentioned, I placed this

afternoon in his Excellency's hands a copy of Mr. Goschen's note to Prince Lobanoff of the 15th ultimo, which was transmitted to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 10, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, explaining to him that I did so confidentially and unofficially.

As Count Goluchowski was just starting for Buda-Pesth, and was pressed for time, I entered into no further discussion with him upon this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 162.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 3, 1896.

DURING the visit paid to me the day before yesterday by Count Nigra, his Excellency mentioned that he had learned from Count Goluchowski the details of the application made by your Lordship to Prince Lobanoff for extended powers of discussion to be sent to M. de Nélidoff, and that the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs had communicated to him the reply made by the Prince. He had not been informed, however, of your Lordship's despatch to me, as he had not seen Count Goluchowski since I had communicated it to his Excellency; and I therefore thought that I could not do better than place him confidentially in possession of its contents.

Count Nigra said that he entirely agreed with your Lordship's views as conveyed in that despatch, which he thought so admirable that he must beg me to suggest to your Lordship the expediency of making a similar communication to the Italian Government.

I told him that I would certainly do so, but that I regarded it as probable that Sir Clare Ford would be already in a position to inform Baron Blanc of the real state of the case, which had apparently been misunderstood at St. Petersburgh.

Count Nigra observed that he shares Count Goluchowski's inability to enter into Prince Lobanoff's apprehensions as to the effect likely to be produced at Constantinople by discussions such as those proposed. He believed, however, that as M. Cambon was quite as strongly in favour of the latter as Sir Philip Currie, and as the French Ambassador's opinion had evidently not had any more effect at St. Petersburgh than those of his colleagues, there is little or no chance of Prince Lobanoff's being induced to change his mind.

He added that he quite agreed with me, that Count Goluchowski is himself now in favour of the discussions receiving all the extension desired by the British, French, and Austrian Ambassadors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 163.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 81. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 1, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting generally on events at Zeitoun and Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, January* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency with reference to your telegram of yesterday's date, that in a letter dated 29th ultimo, Mr. Macallum informs me that the Turkish troops had met with a serious defeat at Zeitoun, that large numbers of wounded were brought into Marash throughout the week, and that there must have been great loss of life.

Mr. Macallum thinks that at least 5,000 have been killed, though common report swells the number to 10,000, including the Commanding Ferik, Mustapha Remzi Pasha. The Zeitounlis, in addition to powder and shot, appear to have used dynamite, or some such explosive.

Mr. Macallum alludes to the fact that the Mutessarif, with two Turks and two Christians, had proceeded to Zeitoun to propose terms of peace, and we now know that whatever these terms were, they were refused.

So many of the rumours from Zeitoun, which have been spread in this city, have since been confirmed, that I am inclined to believe a statement I have just heard, that carrier pigeons are employed for the transmission of news.

With reference to past events in Marash, Mr. Macallum says that evidence is accumulating to show that there was a desire, if not a purpose, on the part of the Government to have all the property and perhaps the lives of the missionaries destroyed on the day of the massacre. The Mutessarif that day was riding through the streets, urging on the soldiers in their bloody work. I have already reported the misconduct of Mustapha Remzi Pasha on the same occasion.

The letter referred to was forwarded to me by the favour of the French missionaries of the Terra Santa in Marash, through whom I have received supplementary details of the various massacres in Marash.

They state the number of Christians killed in the massacre of the 18th November at 856, of houses burned 140, of houses and shops pillaged 1,560. They describe the haste with which, after the event, the soldiers shovelled the dead Christians into pits, so that it became impossible to estimate the extent of the slaughter by examining the streets afterwards, but only possible to do so by inquiries made from house to house after long delay.

They describe the terrible death of Padre Salvatori, Superior of the Monastic establishment at Yenija Kalé, who, with twelve of his flock, was induced to start for Marash under an escort provided for through the French Consulate in Aleppo. They were chained and brought to a certain place, where, by order of the Colonel Commanding the district, they were given the choice of death or of embracing Islam, and on refusing were massacred and their bodies burnt. Two other monks (Spaniards) belonging to the convents of Dium Kalé and Yenijae Kalé escaped into Zeitoun.

Of the situation at Zeitoun, the French missionaries add that twenty battalions of troops surround the place, and 20,000 Kurds and Circassians.

In the district of Albistan, all the Christians are stated to have saved their lives by embracing Islam.

I am informed that at Biredjik, it is the practice to examine those who cross the ferry, to ascertain whether they have been circumcised or not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

No. 164.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 1, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, giving further information as to the second massacre which took place at Ourfa on the 28th, 29th, and 30th December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Aleppo, January 6, 1896.

Sir,

IN confirmation of my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received by post the following information with regard to the second massacre, which has occurred at Ourfa.

It was not, as at first reported, the act of the Hamidié cavalry in its essential character. It was a massacre of Armenians similar in character to those terrible outbreaks which occurred in November all over Anatolia. So far as I can judge, the disarmament of the population by the authorities must have precipitated the event.

It is stated in a letter received yesterday by a British subject (Israelite), that the massacre lasted three days, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (28th to 30th December), and that three-fourths of the Armenians were destroyed, that the work of burying the dead was being actively carried on on New Year's Day, the duty being intrusted to the Jews; but, the writer adds, it will take a week to complete the task.

The official estimate is 900 killed.

A large number of marauders from the neighbourhood of Souroudj, together with Hamidié cavalry, appear to have taken part in the massacre, after the news of the outbreak had reached the outside villages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

No. 165.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 1, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo on the proceedings of the Consular Commission for Zeitoun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Aleppo, January 6, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, with reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, that the Consuls of the six Powers met on the afternoon of Saturday, the 4th instant, at the house of M. Yakimansky, Russian Consul and Doyen of the Consular Corps, delay having been occasioned by the departure of the mail.

The following is a translation of the telegram addressed by the six Consuls to the leaders of the insurrent forces at Zeitoun:—

"We have been charged by our Ambassadors to offer you our mediation with the Ottoman Government, and the Porte has consented to a suspension of hostilities to facilitate this measure. Please reply quickly, stating whether you accept our mediation or no, and address your reply to the Russian Consul."

I write this at a moment when we are all ignorant whether our message has reached its destination, and in doubt whether it will secure acceptance of our proposal.

My Italian colleague and myself were delegated by the Consular Corps to visit his Excellency Zibni Pasha at the close of the meeting, to request his Excellency to cause this telegram to be at once forwarded to Zeitoun.

His Excellency expressed surprise that the proposal should be communicated by telegraph, and doubts whether the insurgents would not suspect that it was a trap prepared by the authorities.

He said that the advice which he had received from the Porte was to the effect that the Consuls would in the first instance send a Dragoman or other suitable messenger.

He recited the conditions which the Porte was ready to accept, and which were the same as those communicated to me in your Excellency's telegram of the 2nd instant—surrender of the insurgent leaders, arms and ammunition, and reconstruction of the barracks.

We did not offer any observations on the subject.

In contrast to these terms laid down by the Government, we have the extravagant pretensions of the Zeitounlis who are fighting for absolute independence. As shown in my Report of the 1st January and accompanying map, they will probably ask for the constitution of an Armenian province, whose bounds are, roughly speaking, defined by those of ancient Cilicia.

On receiving the order to transmit our telegram, the Mutessarif of Marash sent it to his Excellency Edhem Pasha, who the same night telegraphed to the Vali that he had completely surrounded the Zeitounlis, and that he could not communicate it safely.

The Vali telegraphed to the Porte for fresh instructions, and last night orders were sent to Zeitoun that the message should be delivered.

Your Excellency knows that I hold a high opinion of his Excellency Edhem Pasha, and I am unwilling to believe that he can have thrown difficulties in our way of his own initiative, and certainly he is not the man to prefer to destroy the Zeitounlis rather than attempt a peaceful settlement of the quarrel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

No. 166.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 1, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 82 of the same date, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, confirming the facts reported with regard to the second massacre at Ourfa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Aleppo, January 10, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of the 8th instant respecting recent events in Ourfa.

This massacre far exceeded in cruelty and destruction those which occurred in other parts of this vilayet during November, and was succeeded immediately by similar events at Guermitch, Biredjik, Roum-Kaleh, and Jibbeen.

The situation in Ourfa from the 28th October, date of the first outbreak, to the close of the year, was that the Christians remained shut up in their houses, jealously keeping watch over whatever arms they possessed, with a fearful recollection of what they had just survived. They were, however, cajoled by the authorities, who succeeded in persuading many among them to surrender their arms, and then the massacre took place. Here again the soldiers took part in the butchery, with the Moslem civilians; but when the Hamidiés and other marauders, Kurds and Circassians, came down from Souroudj after the fury of the attack was already spent, the Mutessarif telegraphed to Aleppo that the town was attacked by the Hamidiés, and asked for instructions that the soldiers should fire upon them. Orders were given, and the Hamidiés appear to have been beaten off, upon which they made a descent upon the large village of Guermitch, about 5 miles north-east of Ourfa, where they killed all the males among the Armenians.

In the town of Ourfa there were about 8,000 Armenians, of whom it appears that 3,000 have been slain, and many among them burnt alive.

At a moment when many hundreds of people had taken refuge in the chief

Armenian church, a Muezzin climbed upon the roof of the building and gave the Mussulman call to prayer, but an Armenian from below shot him dead.

The mob attacked the church, and it was burnt, with the people inside.

It is stated that every Armenian priest was killed and that the Bishop was wounded.

The first day after the massacre 1,500 people were buried in pits by the Jews, under the eye of the soldiers, and, no doubt, many were interred alive. In one instance, it is stated that 140 wounded Armenians were thrown into a well, and their bodies burnt with petroleum.

The greed and cruelty of the Moslems cannot be restrained in face of the truth that the guilty are never punished. If a hundred Moslems were hanged in one or two of the towns where outrages have occurred, we might hope that they would not recur. Yet the persecution of the Armenians by the authorities is becoming more bitter every day, and the prisons are filled with them to overflowing.

Letters from Aintab report the imprisonment of those to whom Mr. Saunders has frequently referred, as having faithfully opposed the revolutionary movement among the boys at Aintab College. It was reported yesterday that forty Armenians had been condemned to death at Aintab for complicity in the massacre of the 16th November, but not one Mussulman.

Great efforts are being made to raise money by the collection of arrears of taxation, and especially of the land tax, which in some cases is exacted six months before due; and within the last few days nearly 100 persons have been imprisoned in Aleppo because unable to pay.

The general attitude of the Moslems is, if anything, more offensive than formerly, and gives ground for great anxiety in view of the approach of Ramazan. That, however, will be a period of tension and dread all over the Empire. One is perhaps prone to think and write as if the scene of one's own life were always the most important.

If the Consular Commission to Zeitoun should arrive at a satisfactory settlement with the insurgents, and the reserves are able to return home before the fast begins, and their ordinary course of life is resumed, it will greatly lessen the danger. The Commission is welcomed by the lower class of Moslems because it gives them the hope that their relatives will be saved from further destruction, though it is greatly deplored by the thinking class of Moslems as a serious blow to the Ottoman prestige.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

No. 167.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting on the Commission for the re-establishment of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 14, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that General Saadeddin Pasha, who left Constantinople towards the end of November as Special Commissioner for the re-establishment of order in the Vilayets of Trebizond, Erzeroum, Bitlis, and Van, is now at Bitlis, where he will, it is thought, remain indefinitely.

At all the towns he stayed at he called the chief Armenians, and addressed them as the real and only culprits in connection with the recent disorders, and, whilst calling on them to remain quiet for the future, he threatened them with the severest treatment at the hands of the soldiers under his command should they give any further trouble.

He does not seem to have taken much pains about giving similar much-needed advice to Turks or Kurds.

This attitude of his towards the Armenians has not conduced to mend matters, and while, on the one hand, he has discouraged and unnecessarily alarmed them, on the other he has emboldened the Turks in the belief that they have the Government on their side, and are not to be punished, as they fully expected, for their misdeeds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 168.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, inclosing a report from Mr. Hallward on the situation at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, in which he represents the situation as being still somewhat critical, and anticipates disturbances in the spring.

As on previous occasions, I have once more called Shakir Pasha's attention to the state of things described by Mr. Hallward. He, however, continues to place confidence in the powers of the Vali and of Shemseddin Pasha to prevent an outbreak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Van, January 8, 1896.*

THERE is no change in the situation here. Perhaps, on the whole, the immediate prospect is rather more peaceful than it was, but I cannot say I have much belief in tranquility and security being re-established for any length of time. The Government show no disposition, and indeed have now scarcely the means, to carry out reforms of any sort, and I fear the spring may bring an outbreak of disturbances worse than any that have yet occurred in this province. The idea of the Government is, I fancy, to let things go on in the old groove, and thus continue the process which has been steadily carried on hitherto of getting rid of the Christian element, but so strong a feeling has been aroused on both sides, that it seems impossible for the old state of things to continue. Great changes seem inevitable in the near future, though it is difficult to foresee what shape they will take.

Half of the "Redifs" who had been called under arms have been disbanded.

The Catholicos of Akhtamar, who had long been in a very feeble state, died on the 3rd instant. It is to be hoped that his successor will be a man of higher and more energetic character than the deceased, who during a long tenour of office almost entirely neglected the interests of his people, and had little influence over them or with the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 169.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting that relief work at Sasun has been resumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson, reporting on further relief operations in the Sasun district, where, he says, the troops have succeeded in maintaining order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, January 1, 1896.*

I AM glad to report that all appears quiet in the relieved districts of Sasun and Talori, and that the troops stationed there are keeping the Kurds in order.

We are almost daily sending up further supplies of grain to the villages, the villagers coming down and carrying it on their backs. Owing to the distance and the difficulty of the roads, it has been necessary to issue to the inhabitants of Ishkentsor and the neighbouring villages money in lieu of a month's supply of grain. It has been impossible, owing to recent events, to procure grain from the south for that region, as we had hoped to do, but the villagers say that they can buy from neighbouring Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. S. HAMPSON.

No. 170.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 929 of the 13th December last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, stating that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reports that Reschid Bey and the other two dismissed police officers left Mush for Constantinople on the 31st December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 16, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th November, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reports that Reschid Bey and the other two dismissed police officers left that place for Constantinople viâ Erzeroum on the 31st December.

Mr. Hampson adds that they have been in receipt of full pay ever since their nominal discharge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH

No. 171.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Pera, February 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting that the Bitlis Vilayet has been raised to first-class rank.

I would mention that the "Cadi," of whom Mr. Cumberbatch speaks in the latter part of his despatch, has, in consequence of my repeated representations, been transferred to another post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting that the Bitlis Vilayet has been raised to first-class rank. Mr. Hampson's opinion as to the abilities of the Vali, Eumer Bey, is shared by Shakir Pasha and others.

As to the case of Feham Pasha, the Mutessarif of Mush, again referred to by Mr. Hampson, I have to state that, on calling the attention of Shakir Pasha to the unsatisfactory relations between him and the "Cadi," as reported in my despatch of the 23rd December, his Excellency, after communicating with Saadeddin Pasha, who corroborated Mr. Hampson's statements, wrote an identical letter couched in strong language to both of them, and also to Ahmed Pasha, the Military Commandant.

If Feham Pasha is dismissed, it will be due to the influence the "Cadi" and his Turkish supporters may possess at Constantinople rather than to any action by Shakir Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, December 31, 1895.*

I LEARN that the Vilayet of Bitlis has just been raised to the rank of a first-class vilayet, and that Eumer Bey has been confirmed in the post of Vali, and has been decorated with the Osmanié, 1st class. Though I am inclined to believe that Eumer Bey is a well-meaning official, I much doubt, in the light of recent events, whether he is nearly strong enough for such a position.

There would appear to be a general intrigue against Feham Pasha, Mutessarif of Mush. Shakir Pasha, the Mushir, and the Valis of Bitlis and Diarbekir, have all complained to the Central Government of his incapacity and want of firmness in dealing with the Armenians; in other words, that he prevented a massacre here, thus reflecting on what has happened in their own district. The Grand Vizier has telegraphed to the Mutessarif, asking what answer he has to make to these charges. The latter has replied that he has acted in accordance with justice and with the interests of the country, and that the Armenians here have given no cause for harsh treatment. He fully expects to be dismissed, and that is evidently the object of these intrigues.

It will be, in my opinion, a most regrettable and disastrous thing if an official who has endeavoured to rule justly and to maintain order, and has practically succeeded in preventing a massacre of Christians, should, for that reason alone—for that it will be on that account there cannot be the slightest doubt—be dismissed and disgraced. At the request of the Mutessarif, I have abstained from telegraphing to Her Majesty's Embassy on this subject until I see the result of these intrigues; especially as among the charges against Feham Pasha are his friendly relations with myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 172.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting the renewal of Kurdish depredations at Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reports, under date of the 25th December, that Kurds were again giving trouble at Ishkertzor and the neighbouring villages, in consequence of which more troops were being sent in that direction.

In the Mush plain the Kurds were still threatening the Christian villages, three of which were pillaged on the 24th December, but thirty-four Kurds who had taken part in these depredations had been captured and brought to Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 173.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 60 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting a change of Commandant in the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, January 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that matters in the Hauran are for the moment at a standstill. The Acting Mushir, Omar Pasha, has received orders to take up the post of Commander of the troops in the Hauran, and he has already left for Swedah. Edhem Pasha is recalled, and is apparently in disgrace, so that it is not yet certain whether the arrangement he made with the Druses is to hold good.

The Druses are quarrelling among themselves, and some of them at any rate show no disposition to submit, especially in the southern portion of the Druse mountain. Six battalions are reported to have started for the southern villages to punish those who are refractory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 174.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Pera, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of extracts from a letter which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora respecting the state of affairs at Cæsarea and Yozgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, February 25, 1896.

THE new Mutessarif of Cæsarea, Artif Bey, has reached his post. Disturbances are rumoured from the outlying villages of Everek, Jujuné, and Tomaras, but I have received no confirmation of the report. The work of distributing the property plundered and afterwards handed over to the authorities at Cæsarea has now terminated. The American missionaries estimate that from one-tenth to one-eighth of the total plunder has been returned. An effort has been made by the Mutessarif to effect a formal reconciliation between Armenians and Turks. The Catholic and Armenian Bishops, together with the Protestant pastor, refused to have anything to do with such a ceremony, declaring that the Armenians were quietly engaged in their daily business when the cowardly attacks on them were made, and that all they desired in the future was to be left alone. On the 13th instant a long telegram was received from the Sultan, and read before a meeting of the Notables of the various communities at Cæsarea, ordering peace and love, promising impartial justice, and so on. These instructions and promises were listened to with due solemnity. Not one of the many murderers in the recent massacre has as yet been condemned, and the Armenians only venture to open their shops for an hour every day.

* * * * * *

At Yozgat there is still much anxiety. Some days ago 400 mounted Circassians from the Sivas frontier made an appearance in the vicinity of the town. The Commandant, after conferring with the Mutessarif, summoned the leader of this force, and asked why he had come to Yozgat. The Circassian replied that he had brought his men naturally to punish the Armenians, and enrich themselves at the infidels expense. The Commandant gave him twelve hours' grace in which to retire with his horde, "after

which interval," said the Pasha, "my troops shall enrich the soil with their bayonets and your blood."

The Circassian withdrew in hot haste.

(Signed) R. FONTANA

No. 175.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 94.)

Pera, February 1, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 6th January, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Rev. R. Chambers respecting the state of affairs in the districts near Ismidt which were lately visited by Mr. Shipley, and making suggestions for the establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 175.

The Rev. R. Chambers to Sir P. Currie.

Baghchejik (Ismidt), January 28, 1896.

Your Excellency,

I HAVE to thank your Excellency most sincerely for sending Mr. Shipley to look in upon us. His visit evidently produced a good effect upon the mind of our Mutcssarif. The Military Pasha, however, set spies and officials on Mr. Shipley's track, who made searching inquiries in this village and at Adabazar as to all his movements. The hotel-keeper with whom he stopped at Adabazar was arrested and severely cross-questioned. He was then released, with a strict injunction to let no one know the tenour of his examination. The Kaïmakam of Adabazar was absent from the town; the Vakil afterwards asserted that he had received a telegram from the Military Pasha ordering the arrest of Mr. Shipley.

Some years ago I proposed the establishment of an Armenian Colony in the Canadian North-west. The proposal was well received in Canada, but the time was not propitious. Perhaps the time has come to revive the proposition. If a scheme could be perfected for the establishment of such Colonies in the Sash-al-Chawan district and in British Columbia, I am sure it would result in great mutual benefit and blessing.

The country here is quiet at present. There is severe pressure for taxes, together with an utter inability on the part of many to pay. The threat is now freely made to enter the houses and seize the people's scanty belongings.

Your Excellency's humble servant,

(Signed) R. CHAMBERS.

No. 176.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 95.)

Pera, February 1, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 13th January, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a notice which appeared in the Turkish press, appointing a Commission of Relief under the presidency of the Sultan, and giving details of the method in which its work is to be conducted.

Your Lordship will observe that the Commission is divided into two sections, of which one is to deal with relief to Ottoman subjects, and the other with the repair and reconstruction of injured and destroyed mosques.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Extract from the "Sabah" of January 13 (25), 1896.

(Traduction.)

LA Haute Commission de Mœurs, instituée sous la présidence de Sa Majesté le Sultan et Vice-Présidence de son Excellence Ismail Hakki Pacha, Vice-Président de la Commission d'Inspection Militaire, et dont les membres sont choisis parmi les fonctionnaires des divers Départements, pour secourir ceux des sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans qui, lors des troubles qui ont eu lieu dans certaines Provinces de l'Anatolie ont subi des pertes, et pour procéder à la réparation des mosquées endommagés, a été par Iradé Imperial divisée en deux sections, dont l'une s'occupera à la distribution de secours aux sujets Ottomans, tandis que l'autre sera chargée de procéder à la reconstruction des mosquées détruites et à la réparation de celles qui sont endommagées, avec les fonds de secours. Cet Iradé a sanctionné en même temps les décisions prises par la dite Commission, en ce qui concerne l'impression, aux frais du Ministère des Finances, des billets de 1 et de $\frac{1}{2}$ de Medjidié, de 1 Medjidié d'argent de 25, 50, et 100 piastres or; à se réunir en séance quatre fois par semaine pour s'occuper dans ses deux séances de questions de secours à distribuer, et des affaires des mosquées dans ses deux autres réunions; la formation dans chacune des provinces, où des secours seront distribués, de Sous-Commissions à l'instar de celle de la Haute Commission de Constantinople, ayant chacune (de ces Sous-Commissions) deux sections, dont l'une composée des Ulémas (Prélats Musulmans), des Cheiks, et des préposés de l'Evcaf, s'occupera exclusivement des affaires des mosquées, et l'autre sera composée des membres choisis par les Conseils Municipaux et sous la surveillance des Valis; à frapper des médailles d'après le modèle approuvé, pour conférer à ceux qui donneraient des secours pour une somme de £ T. 10 et plus; d'aviser aux moyens de faire construire des baraques pour ceux qui se trouvent sans habitations et après avoir demandé les rapports des Valis.

Cet Iradé Impérial a été communiqué par la Sublime Porte aux vilayets.

No. 177.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 96.)

Pera, February 3, 1896.

My Lord,

MR. A. B., an Armenian gentleman who has been naturalized in England with the consent of the Turkish Government, called upon me a few days ago and stated that a demand had been made upon him by the Hinchak Committee for £ T. 200, and that he had been threatened with death in the event of his failing to comply.

I offered to lay the facts before the Turkish Government, and to request that special measures should be taken to protect him. He feared, however, that such a step would only increase his danger. He was unable, he said, without incurring serious loss, to leave the country, and the only course that seemed left to him was to pay the sum demanded. He feared, however, that if the fact of his having done so became known he might be accused of being a party to the acts of the revolutionists, with which he had no sympathy.

I proposed that he should record the facts in a letter to me, which could be produced at any future time, and which would show that any payment which he might find it necessary to make had been extorted from him by threats.

He has accordingly sent the letter, of which a copy is inclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Letter addressed to Sir P. Currie.

Constantinople, February 1, 1896.

Excellency,

I TAKE the opportunity of placing upon record the communication which I had the honour to make to your Excellency this morning. I then informed your Excellency that on many occasions during the last year I had received threatening

letters from the "Huntchak" Secret Society and to be sealed with its seal. These letters demanded various sums of money from me. In all cases I had declined to comply with the request. Recently, however, a man came to me and insisted upon seeing me. When I declined, he sent me in a card which I showed to your Excellency, and which I now inclose. I saw the man in question, who showed a letter purporting to be signed by a revolutionary committee, and stating that he was authorized to receive £T. 200. At the same time he informed me that if I did not give the £T. 200 I should be killed, and he called attention to the death of my friend C. D. a few days ago as a warning.

I find myself in this dilemma. If I give, and the Turkish police should learn the fact, I should no doubt have some charge brought against me by them. If I refuse, the threat might be carried out, as in the case of C. D. I cannot leave the country; the interests of my house require that I should remain in Turkey, where I have many thousands of pounds invested, which require my personal presence to prevent them from being lost.

I therefore, on your Excellency's suggestion, place these facts on record, with the view of any event which may happen in regard to me.

I have to thank your Excellency for receiving me, and trusting I shall be honoured with an acknowledgment of my letter, I remain, &c.

(Initialled) A. B.

No. 178.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 101.)

Constantinople, February 5, 1896.

My Lord,

I AM informed by Consul-General Drummond Hay that 300 Druses from the neighbourhood of Damascus and Mount Hermon arrived at Beyrout last week, and were sent to Crete for military service. Many people in Beyrout were eye-witnesses of the brutal treatment to which these men were subjected by the Turkish soldiers, and it has excited the strong resentment of the Druses of the Lebanon. Mr. Drummond Hay adds that more prisoners are expected to arrive shortly at Beyrout.

I am calling the attention of the Porte to the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 179.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 102.)

Pera, February 6, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a telegram which I have received from the High Commissioner of Cyprus, reporting a communication made by some Armenian prisoners from Sivas, who arrived at Limassol on board a Turkish ship on their way to Rhodes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Sir W. Sendall to Sir P. Currie.

Cyprus, February 5, 1896.

(Telegraphic.)

ARMENIAN prisoners in irons from Sivas arrived at Limassol on board a Turkish steamer named "Alexandras." One of them, Dr. Tigrane by name, stated to the District Commissioner that they were being taken to Rhodes, where they expected to be executed. They had been arrested without trial. They implored the aid of the British Government.

No. 180.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 103. Confidential.)

Pera, February 6, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 75 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the American Minister spoke to me a few days ago with some bitterness of the refusal of the Porte to admit an American "stationnaire," which he said was due to the opposition of the Russian Ambassador. He maintained that the United States had as good a right to station a small war-vessel at Constantinople as the Signatories of the Treaties of Paris and Berlin.

He asked me whether I would support this demand.

I said that personally I could see nothing in the Treaties that conflicted with his view, but that I could not act alone in the matter. I recommended him to speak to the other Ambassadors, and said that if they agreed to support him I should be quite ready to join them in doing so.

The matter was privately discussed yesterday at the Ambassadors' meeting, and most of my colleagues appeared inclined to admit that the contention of the American Minister was not unreasonable, and that the fact that the words "Puissances Amies" are employed in the Article relating to the "stationnaires" at Constantinople, whereas that referring to the Danube "stationnaires" speaks of the "Hautes Parties Contractantes," shows that it was not intended to exclude other Powers from the privilege of keeping vessels for the service of their missions. As a matter of fact, the Greek Legation formerly had a "stationnaire," and Mr. Terrell states that upon one occasion an American war-vessel remained at Constantinople for nearly a year.

The Russian Ambassador, however, stated that he had a most decided objection to the proposal.

If the privilege was granted to the United States, it would at once be claimed by the other Powers, and if every country had a war-vessel in the Bosphorus, he could no longer consider that the closure of the Straits was maintained.

No. 181.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 104.)

Constantinople, February 6, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1004 of the 26th December, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I had a meeting with my French and Russian colleagues yesterday on the subject of the Commission of Control, and that we agreed to send our Dragomans to-day to the Commission to press for a definite answer as to the steps that are being taken to put the Commission into working order.

Since the date of my last despatch, our Dragomans have been in communication with the Porte on the subject without making any satisfactory progress, but my colleagues have received information that, since my audience of the Sultan, authority has been given to the Commission to communicate directly with the provincial authorities, with the reserve that when orders are to be sent to the Valis they should pass through the Grand Vizier.

If this information turns out to be correct, we shall instruct our Dragomans to enter into regular communication with the Commission, the members of which appear to rely upon the Embassies for support in order to obtain the authority necessary to enable them to carry out their duties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 182.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 105. Confidential.)

Pera, February 6, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 104 of this day, your Lordship will notice that the question of the Commission of Control is being dealt with only by the Embassies of Great Britain, France, and Russia.

In view of the strong objection expressed by M. de Nélidoff, with the concurrence of M. Cambon, to a participation of the other Embassies in any joint steps that we may take in regard to the execution of the plan of reforms, I have not thought it wise to refuse to act with them only.

In reply to an intimation from my Italian colleague of his readiness to join us, I said that it would, I thought, be better for the present that the task of starting the execution of the reforms should be left to the three Embassies that carried them through.

M. Pansa did not raise any objection.

The Austrian and German Ambassadors have not shown any desire to interfere in the reform question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 183.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)

Rome, February 5, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 8 of the 31st ultimo and to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 12 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have explained confidentially to Baron Blanc, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the misunderstanding which had arisen in certain Cabinets in Europe respecting the communications which had passed between the British and Russian Governments on the subject of the internal situation of Turkey, and that there was no ground for supposing that your Lordship ever contemplated acting independently with the Russian Government in concerting measures for introducing reforms in the Ottoman Empire.

His Excellency expressed to me his thanks for the communication which I had made to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 184.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 54.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 11, 1896, 7 P.M.

THE Consuls at Zeitoun have sent a collective telegram stating that the Zeitounli Chiefs have accepted and signed the conditions telegraphed by the Ambassadors to the Consuls. The Turkish Government had previously agreed to these conditions, which were as follows:—

1. A general amnesty will be granted. Prosecutions at common law may, however, be instituted by private individuals against persons amnestied. The few foreign Huntchagists will be simply expelled from Ottoman territory.

2. The Zeitounlis as well as any Mussulmans living in the valley are to give up their arms of war. They are allowed to retain sporting guns, revolvers, and daggers.

3. The question of remitting the arrears of taxes will be reconsidered, and the rebuilding of the barracks not insisted on. But these concessions must be asked as an act of grace from the Sultan, as they are not conditions of the Agreement.

No. 184*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1896, 12·55 P.M.

DOES your Excellency see any objection to dispensing with the permanent presence of a ship at Jeddah? The Admiralty are pressing for this, and ask if periodical visits will not be sufficient.

I am not aware of any objection.

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4. The appointment of a Christian Kaïmakam will be settled in conformity with the acts of reforms.

5. The suppression of the Turkish garrison demanded by the minority is not accepted.

The conditions the Ambassadors considered acceptable, it was not for them to give guarantees, but they would demand a declaration from the Porte on the subject. Instructions have been sent to the Consuls to agree with the Turkish Commandant as to his proposed arrangement for the future safety of the refugees in Zeitoun, and to superintend its execution.

No. 185.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 14, 1896, 7·45 P.M.

THE Sultan sent me a message through my Dragoman, who was summoned to the Palace to-day. His Majesty expressed his regret at the passage in the Queen's Speech respecting Armenian affairs, as he feared it would have a very bad effect on public opinion. He added that the Mussulmans had been attacked while praying in the mosques, and had suffered great atrocities at the hands of the Armenians, who had used Martini rifles, dynamite, and bombs, while the Mussulmans could only defend themselves with arms of old pattern.

No. 186.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 14, 1896, 2·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Mr. Barnham at Zeitoun yesterday:—

"An escort of thirty soldiers with Consular Guards, and my Dragoman, have accompanied the six Huntchag leaders to Mersina. Their destination is Marseilles."

No. 187.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Military Vice-Consul at Van, announcing his arrival there, and giving an account of his journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Van, January* 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival here on the 11th January after a somewhat difficult journey; and I trust that on assuming my duties here I may be permitted to bear testimony to the good work done by my predecessor, Mr. Hallward, as evinced by the esteem in which he is held by all classes of the population.

During my journey viâ Baiburt, Erzeroum, Hassan Kaleh, Delibabs, the Alashgird Plains, Patnos, Arjisch, and Djanig, I have had opportunities of conversing with persons of every rank and nationality. I have also visited a large number of Armenian villages. I found the whole road quiet and apparently safe. The district of Baiburt appears to have suffered severely, but the new Kaïmakam, Ibrahim Bey, who is well known to Europeans as an excellent official, has done much to reassure the Armenian population. He has issued corn to those most in need, and has assured me that he can and will continue to feed the people until the harvest.

Between Hassan Kaleh and Alashgird I found that, though many of the villages had been plundered by the Kurds, some of their sheep and cattle, others of almost everything, even in the worst cases sufficient grain remained to feed the people through the winter, while the formation of their houses and the plentiful supply of cow-dung fuel everywhere visible should do much to mitigate the hardships of those who are said to have lost even their blankets.

Throughout this district I was informed by the Armenians that the local officials were exerting themselves to get back from the Kurds a portion of the stolen property. They spoke most highly of a cavalry Yuzbashi named Mirza Bey, who had saved two villages, and who was particularly active in their defence.

For instance, they told me that 1,000 sheep had been taken from the village of Chirasun, 300 of which had been returned. Another man at Todi had lost 2,000 sheep, and had received back 300. At the village of Chilkan I saw eight sheep which had been returned to one man, who said he originally had possessed 200.

From Chilkan to Patnos there are few Armenian villages. Beyond Patnos the Kurdish Chiefs Hosein Pasha and Emin Pasha have been fighting among themselves, while the latter's men have been particularly active in raiding the villages in the Arjisch district. These two Chiefs are now in Erzeroum, and will presumably be dealt with by Shakir Pasha.

In the district of Arjisch I found that two villages had been saved by a Kurd named Ali Beg; most of the other villages are said to have been more or less looted and a few people killed; perhaps the deaths may amount to twenty. The Armenians spoke in warm terms of the Actiog Kaïmakam, a Turkish officer of Hamidieh cavalry, who appears to have done his best to protect the people.

Near Djanig, and almost six hours' distance from Van, I found a large village absolutely deserted; even the doors of the houses had been carried away. The Armenians at Djanig told me the people had not been killed, but had dispersed to other villages, and that some had gone to Van.

As regards the district of Van, it is early for me to speak, and so far I have been unable to obtain reliable information as to the probable number or proportion of villages which have been looted. I have no doubt the proportion is very large, and that these poor people are suffering considerable hardships, but I do not think that anything in the way of wholesale starvation is to be feared. I hope to be able either to visit myself or to send Mr. Thesiger to visit some of the villages in the near future.

Generally speaking the situation is very bad; the Armenians are everywhere in a state bordering on panic, afraid lest the spring will bring still further disasters. Mahommedan fanaticism, hitherto dormant, has been aroused by the action of the Armenian revolutionaries, while the dearth of money sufficient to carry on the Executive Government, and the want of discipline of the Turkish troops, still further complicate the question.

No reforms are possible until security for life and property shall have been re-established and confidence restored.

If I may be allowed to suggest, I should advise that Shakir Pasha be supported to the utmost. I believe he means well, but is hampered by want of money and the necessity of having to refer to Constantinople. I would further suggest that distinct orders be sent to all the Valis that they must take the necessary precautions during the winter, so that when the snow melts they may be prepared to protect the Armenian villages from further Kurdish raids.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 188.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, inclosing a Report from Mr. Hampson on the situation at Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the situation in that district.

Shakir Pasha has been informed by me again of the fears entertained by Mr. Hampson, and he assured me that Saadedin Pasha would take the necessary steps to put down any disorders that may arise now or in the spring. He made a note of the information regarding the doings of Halil and Sulciman, of Sindah, in order to communicate with Saadedin Pasha on the subject.

He expressed disapproval of the wholesale arrests at Bitlis, but did not intimate his inclination, or rather his power, to interfere with the proceedings of the judicial authorities of that place.

As regards the quarrel between Feham Pasha and the Kadi, he told me that he had heard from the former, who requested that the latter should be dismissed. His Excellency still hopes that, through the efforts of the Military Commandant, an improvement will be effected in the relations between the Mutessarif and the Kadi, who, he admits, is a turbulent character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Moush, January 7, 1896.*

AN Armenian, whose information has generally proved trustworthy, stated to me a few days ago that he had been told by a high Turkish official of Guendj that a Circular telegram had just been addressed by the Sultan to the authorities of the various districts in the following terms:—

"The seven Powers are pressing me to execute their wishes in regard to the Armenian question. Such a course would be most prejudicial to our Empire, and, sooner than adopt it, Turkey must shed every drop of the blood of her soldiers. Be ready, therefore, and on receiving my order, put every Armenian to the sword."

I hesitate to believe in such a telegram having been sent, though there is perhaps no inherent impossibility, or even improbability, in it, and the statements of the Sassoun Kurds, reported below, support it. That a similar order, though with certain limitations, was issued for the previous massacres, seems morally certain.

In the interview between the Mutessarif and Saadeddin Pasha, reported in my despatch of the 25th ultimo, the latter inquired whether Feham Pasha had received no orders as to a massacre, on which the Mutessarif, pointing out that a Christian (my informant) was present, said they would discuss that question later. I have no doubt that he received some such order, and suppressed it. The Mussulman population here is firmly convinced that such is the case, especially since the visit of the Special Commissioner, whose language to them clearly indicated the fact.

The release by the judicial authorities of all the Mussulman prisoners, however

clear their guilt—arrested after the riot of 15th November—has strengthened this belief.

There are now two parties—those who wish for a massacre now, and those who consider it too late. From a Turkish source I learn that it is not improbable that, if these parties cannot agree on a massacre of Armenians, they will come to blows between themselves.

Some of the released Mussulmans have been threatening to murder my servant, who made a statement against them, as reported in my despatch of 16th November. I have warned the Mutessarif of this.

In Bitlis more Armenians are daily arrested. Over seventy, including three leading Protestants, are now in prison, and it is feared that severe sentences—possibly even death—will be given. The "Mashata" force still continues there. Signatures are now demanded to a telegram stating that former signatures were not obtained by force.

I learn that there are in Bitlis some 2,500 destitute persons, and that 80 per cent. of the villagers around are in the same state. The Government admits 130 destitute in Bitlis, but is giving no relief even to these.

Nearly all the surviving Christians in Shervan, Yeroun, Hizan, and Modeki have been forced to accept Islamism, and the churches and monasteries are now mosques. In this sandjak—though pillaging, murders, &c., have been very frequent, the Kurds have been kept within certain bounds. Now they are again giving great trouble, and especially in Sassoun and Talori, where as usual they are led by Habil and Suleiman, of Sindah. They threaten to exterminate the Armenians, declaring that orders for fresh massacres have been sent. They are further emboldened by the withdrawal of the soldiers from Jemalink.

So bad has the position in Talori become that the Relief Agent left there by the missionaries has had to flee to Shenik.

On my representations, the Mutessarif telegraphed both to the Kaïmakam of Sassoun at Hasso and to the Mutessarif of Guendj to restore order. He explained that the difficulty of finding provisions had caused the withdrawal of the soldiers from Jemalink, but that they are still quite near enough to maintain order if they wished and tried to do so.

Taxes are being collected in the villages of this plain in the old manner with the greatest brutality and extortion. Such cattle and goods as the wretched inhabitants have saved are being sold. Never was the state of the Armenians so desperate as now.

The differences between the authorities here continue.

In consequence of a letter from Shakir Pasha, the Mutessarif made advances to the Military Commissioner, but the latter refused to accept them unless similar advances were made to the Cadi.

To do this would, the Mutessarif rightly felt, place him in a false position. The position therefore is unchanged.

(Signed) C. S. HAMPSON.

No. 189.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 110.)

Pera, February 8, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Acting Consul Alban on the subject of the outrage perpetrated on the Consuls at Jeddah last May.

No progress whatever appears to have been made in regard to the punishment of the assassins, and the Porte shows no sign of any intention to pay the indemnities demanded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Jeddah, January* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that I have heard from a trustworthy source that the Bedouins of the Ateyba tribe, who had arrived at Mecca to take part in the expedition against the Harb tribe, have returned to their homes. They had previously made two raids, one in the neighbourhood of Hadda, a station on the road about half-way between Mecca and Jeddah, in which they are said to have captured some camels, and another on the Jehadli tribe to the south of the Mecca road. In this latter raid they carried off sheep and other plunder, killing three of the Jehadli tribe. The latter at once sent envoys, who took with them the children of the slain men, to the Grand Shereef at Mecca, to request his protection and the punishment of the raiders. They are said to have presented themselves at the Grand Shereef's residence and to have made their complaint, placing before him the orphan children. The Grand Shereef is said to have looked at them for a few moments and then to have withdrawn into one of his private apartments without vouchsafing any reply. After waiting for some hours and receiving no answer, the Jehadlis returned to their tribe.

These raids were probably made partly with the object of punishing the Jehadli tribe for not giving their assistance, which had been expected, and partly in order to obtain supplies, as it is said that the Ateyba did not receive either a proper supply of provisions or money from the Grand Shereef.

Up to the present time no attack has been made on the Harb tribe, and it would now seem that the proposed expedition, unless carried out by regular troops only, will not take place, and that the Grand Shereef, whether intentionally or otherwise, has irritated all the tribes, who, even at first, were not at all disposed to act against the Harbs, with whom they sympathized in this matter.

A Bedouin of the Harb tribe arrived here secretly from the district of Asfan a few days ago and lodged with one of the servants of a British subject, who resides outside the town and pays blackmail to the Harb Bedouins to secure freedom from molestation. The owner of the house, hearing of his presence, sent for him, and he and my Dragoman interrogated him. According to his statement, a force of about 3,000 men of the Harb tribe has for some time been collected at Asfan, where it is awaiting events. He reported that the Bedouins composing this force were provided with sufficient ammunition and intended to resist any attack. His story confirms reports which had previously reached me to the same effect, but the numbers of the Harb force are probably exaggerated.

If the above reports are true, as I have reason to suppose, the situation is most unsatisfactory. After a delay of nearly eight months matters are practically at a standstill. The Vali does not seem inclined, or has not instructions, to send regular troops, while the Bedouins are evidently indisposed to give their assistance. For more than a month trade here has been dislocated by the want of transport and by the interruption of communication with all the numerous sub-tribes of the Harb consequent on the arrests effected here and in Mecca, arrests for the most part of camel-drivers and charcoal dealers belonging to tribes which had no connection whatever with the alleged murderers. The attempts to coerce other tribes to assist against the Harbs have been absolutely unsuccessful, even the Ateyba apparently showing now that they were not really in earnest. The whole Harb tribe has now for some time been in open revolt, and is prepared to resist the Grand Shereef himself if he attacks it with Bedouin levies. If, however regular troops are sent, and this seems to be the only alternative now, the Harbs will offer no resistance, but will retreat to the desert or mountains where the troops will be unable to bring them to bay.

It is difficult to ascertain what is the Grand Shereef's policy, as the utmost secrecy has been maintained both by himself and the Vali as to their intentions. What is clear, however, is that the Grand Shereef stands alone, and that neither the Bedouins nor the other Shereefs sympathize with him. There seems to be no doubt that the attack on the Consuls of the 30th May last was the outcome of the feeling of hostility among the Bedouins to the new sanitary measures, which in Mecca showed itself in the attack on the hospital and the destruction of the disinfecting machine. Whether the Consuls were mistaken for sanitary doctors, as the Bedouins assert, or whether, failing to find the doctors, the assassins knowingly attacked Mr. Richards and his colleagues it is difficult to say, but there can be no doubt that the Grand Shereef must have known of the feeling

among the Bedouins, which he took no steps to check, and it is not at all improbable that he was aware of the intended demonstrations at Mecca and Jeddah. At the same time the Bedouins of the Harb tribe have long been exasperated by the manner in which the Grand Shereef and his satellites mulct them of a large portion of the camel hire earned by them, and by his systematic robbery, with the connivance of the Valis, of a considerable part of the allowances of grain accorded to them by the Turkish Government. He was, consequently, placed in a dilemma. On the one hand, he probably had no desire to see the assassins tried publicly at Jeddah, and, on the other, he was obliged under pressure from Constantinople, to take certain steps, which he himself probably did not wish to succeed, towards securing the arrest of the assassins. While the Bedouins did not believe in the promises of immunity which he held out to the assassins if they would surrender, and have been enraged at the measures which he has since taken, it has been evident to others that he is not serious in his professed desire to arrest the assassins, and that the manner in which he has executed his plan has been such as to make its ill-success almost certain.

In making the above observations, I am, of course, guided by the reports which have reached me, and which are obtained from the most reliable sources available, the Vali and Shereef maintain the strictest secrecy as to their proceedings, while personal access to them is naturally impossible so long as they remain at Mecca.

I have the honour to add that I am now writing to the Vali, reminding him of the long delay which has occurred, and pressing him to take immediate steps to secure the arrest of the murderers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 190.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 111.)
Constantinople, February 10, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Fontana at Angora, concerning the condition of villages on the Southern Angora-Sivas frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, January 30, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches to your Excellency, Confidential, of the 29th November and the 3rd December, 1895, reporting the raid upon certain villages situated in the south-westerly district of the Sivas Vilayet, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency upon the actual condition of the Armenians of the villages in question.

My information is derived from two American missionaries at Cæsarea, who have just returned from a tour through the district referred to, undertaken with the object of distributing relief among the destitute. The looted villages were visited by them in the following order: Tekmen, Boorkhan, Dendil, Chepné, Ala Kelisse, Topaj, Yapaltu, Kaya Boornar, Lisanlu, and Karageol.

Certain of these places had suffered more severely than others, but in all of them the poverty and destitution were very great. Nearly one-half of the aid given was reserved for those who had lost nothing at the hands of the plunderers, for the simple reason that they had nothing to lose. Some 250 individuals in the direst of need were furnished with blankets and clothing.

These ten villages shelter in all some 1,000 families, and the means of adequately providing for the necessities of any single village, even, were lacking. The villagers have not suffered from famine as yet, but many household are entirely dependent upon charity; and it is feared by the missionaries, who are at the end of their charitable resources, that unless a sufficient stock of grain is laid in very shortly, a large number of the peasantry will scarcely manage to survive the winter.

Little loss of life, comparatively, occurred in the course of the raid; the majority of the plunderers were Circassians, assisted by Turcomans and Kurds. One man was murdered at Boorkhan, and two others at Yapaltu. The leader of the rabble of thieves was a man named Mir Ali, who everywhere declared that an Imperial Firman had been received authorizing the raid; no such Firman, however, was seen or even believed in either by Christians or Turks.

In two villages, Ghemerek and Charkushla, influential and educated Moslems refuted the idea of a similar order being given, and by their courage and energy saved the Armenians from pillage. At Ghemerek, Gadar Oglou Ali Aga encouraged the Armenians and admonished the Turks, finally inducing the people to blockade the streets. For ten days the inhabitants of Ghemerek withstood a siege and finally succeeded in repulsing the besiegers. At Charkushla (known officially as Tounous Karina Kambugu), a certain Suleiman Effendi, by a vigorous and well-timed use of tongue and whip, succeeded in cowing and scattering the Circassians who were upon the point of storming the village, in hope of looting the goods of the Christian residents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 191.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 113.)
Constantinople, February 12, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 91 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the terms offered by the Ottoman Government to the Druses in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Damascus, January 27, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that the terms which the Ottoman Government desires to impose on the Druses are as follows:—

Imposition of land tax, for which purpose a general survey of all land in the Hauran is to be made, and "tapou" deeds issued to proprietors.

Payment of all ordinary taxes.

Military service to be exacted from the Druses not residing in the Hauran. (This has always been exacted in theory, but never in practice.)

The surrender of all Martini rifles, and of all persons guilty of raids and pillage.

It is probable that the Druses, whose villages are so situated as to be easily accessible to the soldiery, will accept these terms nominally at least, but even in their case I doubt very much whether they can ever be enforced unless a large force of troops is always kept in the Hauran. But in the case of the rest of the Druses I do not believe that they will accept these terms. A very large number of Druses are, I am informed, collected in a place inaccessible to the troops, named Safa, to the north-east of the Druse Mountain. They are said to number 6,000 persons, and have apparently no intention of surrendering to the Government.

On the 24th instant a large force of Druses attacked two Christian villages on the borders of the Ledja—Khabalo and Bussir by name—and carried off the herds. Naim Pasha, who is in command of the Albanian troops, attacked these Druses, and there were heavy losses on both sides, but the troops were not successful in recovering the cattle.

This raid is said to be due to the fact that the Druses were enraged at the arrest of some 800 Druses from the villages near Damascus. These men have been arrested on the plea that they were deserters from the army or were engaged in raids, but so many of

them are old men; I believe the principal object to be the obtaining of bribes. The Vali is said to have received a sum of 6,000*l.* in addition to the payments made to the military.

Edhem Pasha has left for Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 192.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting upon the situation of affairs in the Erzeroum district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 31, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th December last, I have the honour to report that, with the exception of a slight improvement in business in this town, there is not any sensible amelioration in the position of affairs to be recorded.

The gradual disbanding of the Redifs of the 4th Army Corps has been appreciated by the public in general, but it still only requires the smallest false alarm to create a panic, and the publication of official versions of the alleged cruelties towards Mussulmans on the part of the Armenians of Zeitoun has contributed towards keeping alive the excited feelings of the Turks.

The removal of the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum, as reported by me on the 30th December, has had a calming effect, and the departure of most of the "Hintchuktists" has removed other elements of danger to the public peace.

There are unmistakable signs of preparations for a migratory movement, and the authorities do not show much opposition to persons leaving so long as they have paid their taxes for the current year. On the other hand, there are no signs of encouragement on the part of Russian agents.

So far the departures have been confined to townspeople, but, to judge from wishes and intentions generally expressed, the whole Armenian population would probably emigrate because they contemplate either a repetition of Mussulman acts of fanaticism or a possible Russian subjugation, not to mention the apparent hopelessness of an improvement of their present forlorn condition.

As far as this vilayet is concerned, the well-known administrative capacities of Raouf Pasha are being put to a severe test, but I have every hope that he will succeed in the maintenance of order and the administration of justice.

As regards reforms, I have nothing to add to what was stated in the last paragraph of my despatch referred to above as to the doings of Shakir Pasha and his staff.

Taxes are being collected with the usual severity from Christians and Mussulmans alike, and their collection, under present circumstances, is most heavily felt by the former, who, were it not for the relief being afforded them out of the funds supplied by the United Kingdom and United States' public, would now be dying of starvation, so thoroughly did the Turkish and Kurdish mobs perform their work of destruction last autumn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 193.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, giving a narrative of the pillaging, massacring, and forcible conversions at Shepik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, February 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a letter written by an inhabitant of an Armenian village of about 100 houses, called Shepik, in the Kharput Vilayet.

The writer, who was an eye-witness of all he relates, is a reliable enough person, and, as his description is the most intelligent statement that has yet come into my hands of the occurrences of last autumn in the villages of the outlying districts, I think it may be found of interest. It describes the proceedings of the marauding Kurds, followed by the more cruel actions of the fanatical Mussulman neighbours in connection with the religious crusade. It also depicts the present utter destitution of the Armenians.

Some places were less cruelly treated, but, on the whole, the inclosed narrative can be taken as an illustration of what took place in numberless towns and villages situated in the extensive district over which the recent wave of destruction and fanatical fury has passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Letter addressed to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Shepik, December 31, 1895.*

ALTHOUGH plunder and bloodshed have been the common occurrence everywhere, we are obliged to describe the calamity which has befallen Shepik, the village where we live. It occurred on Saturday, the 2nd November.

The plundering company that attacked us was led by Sari Tchitchekli Oglou, who, with 400 armed followers, came upon the village. Until noon they discharged their fire-arms. Afterwards some of the leading men of the village went to find out what was their purpose in plundering us.

After consultation they paid £T. 100 as a ransom, but they would not go. They said, "You must give your watches as well." We gave them up, but still they would not go. "You must give your weapons also." We gave those, but still they would not go. "We are going to take the grain, the oxen, and the cattle." They took them, and were still unsatisfied. "We are going to hunt through your houses, and take whatever pleases us." This they did, and went off with all the valuable things.

When day became night we thought the danger was past, and that we were safe, but in vain. The next morning the Turks from the surrounding villages attacked us, and threatened to kill us if we did not leave our houses. So we went outside, and they entered and plundered; for eight days they burnt the houses as they emptied them. Only ten to twelve of the poorer houses were not burnt, but the doors and windows were carried off, and even the rafters of some were taken out and carried off. After this they rushed upon the women and children, and took off their shoes and clothing.

On the eighth day, as they had finished their work, they came to us who were on the banks of the stream. They killed Brother Baghdos' son and Pastor Melcon on the other side of the stream because they would not change their religion, and they proposed to us to change our religion.

It became night, darkness was upon us, but they came with lanterns and selected forty-five of the young men and of those who had acquired wisdom, saying that the Government (authorities) wanted them. Knowing what would befall them, they asked for an hour's grace. They prayed and sung, they asked forgiveness of each other, they kissed the hands of their relations and parted with tears, with the expectation of never seeing each other again.

Taking them to a lonely place half-an-hour's distance and taking them apart two by two they threatened to kill them if they would not change their religion. They all, with one voice, agreed in saying boldly, "We will not deny our religion. We are ready to die for our Saviour's love." Only five succeeded in making their escape but the remaining forty became martyrs for the love of Jesus. My son S———— was among the forty-five, but he escaped with four others and hid in a cave for ten to twelve days. My youngest son, 22 years old, was killed.

How heartrending was the sight. A week before, we were in our homes, comfortable, having made every preparation for the winter, having our friends about us. But like Job we were deprived of everything: dwelling-house, furniture, beds, food, clothing. With heads uncovered, feet bare, little clothing upon us, we passed from rock to rock, from mountain to mountain, with great wailing and lamentation, to find our children. "Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted, because they were not."

After wandering about thus for several days and remaining hungry, we put aside every fear and went to Arabkir to find help, but in vain.

I forgot to say that when the first attack was made, seven young men went to Arabkir to inform the Government. There they were besieged and were unable to return to us. A few days later one of them tried to get away to come to us but he was killed.

Twice the Government has sent us grain for bread, but it was only enough to make two-and-a-half loaves for each person, and this was to last us ten or twelve days. The wheat was burnt and mice had been in it so that it was too bitter to eat.

Many were at last obliged to go to Eghin to try to find food, and I am thankful to say that they received us, but with all the villages about them plundered, to which can they render help?

All that we have is common property. We have returned to our village and are crowded into the ten remaining houses. There are no doors, there are no windows, there is no bread, there is no warm food; there is not even an earthen dish in which we could cook anything if we had it. There is no money, there are no beds. Many of our number become sick and as many as ten have died from cold, exposure, and hunger.

From day to day people die of starvation.

In this state we need your pity and mercy. Please find some way of providing us with dry bread until winter passes.

God pity all the sufferers.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) K ———— K————.

No. 194.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 10, 1896.

I HEAR from several sources that the Armenian population of the Caucasian provinces are a growing source of anxiety to the Russian Government.

At Tiflis an Armenian Revolutionary Committee is said to be in existence, who, under the guise of a religious and sectarian propaganda, are engaged in disseminating their revolutionary principles among the various sects of that district.

The activity of this Committee has recently increased to such an extent as to cause serious alarm to the authorities of Tiflis, who have telegraphed an appeal to the Imperial Government for advice and assistance.

The Government has had its eye for some time upon the above propaganda, and not long ago sent an official of high standing (Senator Uskull) to visit the provinces in question, and make a full inquiry into the various sects of which the population is composed.

I am informed that now, in consequence of the appeal made by the Tiflis authorities, Senator Uskull has been instructed to extend his inquiries to the connection of the sects

No. 194*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1896.

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 60 and 61 relating to the Jeddah outrage.

Her Majesty's Government feel bound, even though they are not able to obtain the punishment of the guilty persons, to insist that an adequate indemnity should be paid.

I request you to inquire of your Russian and French colleagues what action their Governments propose to take in the matter.

---

in question with Armenian revolutionary projects, and to furnish a Report on the subject with as little delay as possible.

Your Lordship will remember that the persecution of the religious Societies in the Caucasus was recently alluded to in the English newspapers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 195.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 17, 1896, 11·40 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 29 of the 12th instant, I think it would be desirable to decide what steps should be taken to obtain payment of indemnity before removing war-ship from Jeddah. Turkish Government has now got some money from the loan, but it is not likely to part with it unless strong pressure is applied.

French Ambassador has several times hinted at joint action, but I have avoided discussing the question.

No. 196.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 17, 1896, 11·50 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 60, I referred your Lordship's telegram as to the war-ship at Jeddah to Mr. Alban, from whom I have received the following in reply:—

"Although Jeddah is in its normal condition, the frequent, if not permanent, presence here of a ship of war is desirable in my opinion, owing to the fanaticism of its inhabitants, especially during Ramazan and the month of pilgrimage, the very possible disturbances on renewal of sanitary measures, and the unsettled state of the tribes. In any case withdrawal will be interpreted here as a sign that no further action respecting attack on Consuls will be taken."

No. 197.

Mrs. Finn to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

My Lord, 75, *Brook Green, London, February* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a letter and statement received by me from the Rev. A. N. Andrus, Senior American missionary at Mardin, in Mesopotamia, who has laboured there for twenty-five years. These papers have not yet been published, and they show that where political intrigue has been absent the feelings of the Turkish authorities and of the Moslem inhabitants have not been embittered against the Christians, with whom in this instance they have made common cause against the Kurds.

The Christians of the Old Syrian Church are loyal subjects of the Sultan, perfectly well behaved and inoffensive. They are the principal inhabitants of Mardin. There has been no disaffection to the Turkish Government among this simple people.

An effort is being made to collect some funds for their relief, especially among those who became acquainted with the late Patriarch when he was here in 1874–75, and with the Bishop, Max Gregorius, during his second visit to this country in 1888–89.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. A. FINN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

The Rev. A. N. Andrus to Mrs. Finn.

Mardin, January 13, 1896.

My dear Mrs. Finn,

YOU will be interested in the inclosed. You will also be happy to learn that Mardin and Deir Zâaferan are still safe . . . . It becomes Christian England to know that the question now is not an Armenian question but a Christian question, viz., whether Christians shall be allowed to live longer as Christians—they having the alternative of accepting Islam or being put to death. I do not say that such is the case here, but such is the case in places north of us, and if allowed to continue it will not take a great while for it to spread to these regions also. This is a critical time for Christianity in this land, more so than at any time since the Crusades.

We have always heard it urged that Russia is the champion of the Christians in Turkey, and that whenever they have been dealt with through atrocities and violence she has come to their rescue. Her not improving this occasion proves conclusively that all her previous interferences were not disinterested. What astonishes me most at the present juncture, however, is the apathy of England.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) A. N. ANDRUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

A Statement and an Appeal.

THE beginning of trouble for us here at Mardin was determined by the outbreak which began in Diarbekir after the midday prayers on Friday the 1st November. The riot continued for three days. Kurds from without riding in, looting and firing shops and houses adjacent to the market.

When the Kurds were expelled from the city and the gates closed against them they turned their attention to the villages. These one after another were taken, plundered and in many instances burned; massacring being generally in proportion to the degree of resistance made by the villagers. A district of about 90 miles long and so broad east of Diarbekir and up to the borders of Sert, in the Vilayet of Bitlis, was swept by this hurricane of destruction wherever Christian villages nestled among the billows of this rolling country. I am not in a position yet to estimate the number of killed and wounded in cities, towns, and villages. The first intimation that the wave of wanton wreckage was moving southwards was given in the attack upon Tell Esmin, Wednesday the 6th November. The Papal Armenian town of 300 houses and 60 shops, five hours west of Mardin, was taken on the following day, plundered and burned.

The next day, Gorli, a Syrian village south of Mardin and only two hours off, fared the same fate. At about the same time the villages of Abrahamuyah, Kalûat'b-Marvah and Benabul fell into the hands of the Kurds, and only Mansuriyeh, twenty minutes north of the city, remained intact. This they tried to capture but were driven back. The Kurdish tribes on every side were determined to attack Mardin after finishing the destruction of the villages. Meanwhile the Local Government were actively preparing for defence, and the leading men of the city, both Moslems and Christians, in a most fraternal spirit joined their efforts to those of the Government to prevent a repetition of what had occurred at Diarbekir. On Saturday and Sunday the 9th and 10th November, three serious attempts were made by the Kurds to enter the city in the hope that they would be aided from within. In this they were disappointed, especially when they were fiercely attacked by the very parties on whom they were relying to let them in. They were obliged to draw off with some loss. The Kurds persistently asserted that a Firman for the slaughter of the Christians had been given, but that the Christians of Mardin had bribed the Government to conceal it and defend them! When the Kurds realized that the Government and the city was a unit for the common defence they drew off and the tide of attack swept further east, taking Maibin and some twenty Christian villages in the way. Many of the latter were also burned. Midyat like Mardin resisted all attacks.

The result of all this is that already some 3,500 refugees are collected here with the prospect for more to follow. In the village of Kulheth, nine hours east, 300 refugees

from Diarbekir Plain are begging food and clothing. The entire Christian population remaining in Sert have been stripped of everything. Large measures of relief will need to be instituted before winter is over, or thousands will die from exposure and hunger.

We need your help at once. Our hearts ache because we have not the means adequate to cope with the sudden and widespread penury, hunger, and nakedness.

Dear friends, we entreat you to hasten your gifts to these starving multitudes and provoke others to similar speedy succour. . . . .

On behalf of Mardin Station,
(Signed) A. N. ANDRUS.

Mardin, December 12, 1895.

No. 198.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1896.

A LETTER has been received from the Governor of Cyprus, of which his Excellency has forwarded a copy to you, relative to the Armenian prisoners referred to in your despatch No. 102 of the 6th instant.

It would seem desirable that your Excellency should make inquiry of the British Vice-Consul at Rhodes in regard to these men, and, on receiving his reply, consider whether it would be of any advantage to them that you should make representations to the Turkish Government on their behalf, or at least show interest in their case.

No. 199

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constatinople, February* 18, 1896, 9·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 38 of to-day's date, I instructed the Acting Vice-Consul at Rhodes on the 10th instant to inform the Vali that I had learnt of the arrival of the prisoners mentioned by Sir W. Sendall, and to state at the same time that he had received instructions to send me reports from time to time respecting them.

I have also requested Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas to send me further particulars in regard to them.

No. 200.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 6, Consular, of the 25th ultimo, forwarding a Report from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah relative to the estate of the late Vice-Consul Dr. Abdur Razzack, and drawing attention to the fact that no reply has been received from the Porte to the demand of Her Majesty's Government for the payment of an indemnity for the family of the late Vice-Consul.

Five months have elapsed since the presentation of that demand, and it seems necessary that some further effort should be made to obtain a settlement.

Your Excellency's despatch No. 110 of the 5th instant containing a Report from

Mr. Alban on the ineffectual character of the steps taken by the Turkish authorities to secure punishment of the assailants, and your telegrams Nos. 60 and 61 of the 17th instant show still more strongly the necessity of further representations.

I have therefore instructed your Excellency, by telegraph, to consult with your French and Russian colleagues as to the advisability of renewing the demands for compensation for the injuries sustained by the Consuls and for the family of the murdered man, and to state that Her Majesty's Government feel bound to insist on the payment of an adequate indemnity, even if it should prove impossible to obtain the punishment of the guilty persons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 201.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 21, 1896, 11·20 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum has telegraphed to-day as follows:—

With a view to disarming the Kurds in the district of Dersim, a Report has been drawn up by Shakir Pasha, and sent to Constantinople, suggesting a military expedition in the spring.

The Dersim Kurds are the most unruly, and he thinks action against them would deter the others. In support of his plans he says, that unless the Government takes steps to show their disapprobation of recent excesses, and a determination to prevent them in future, there is a possibility of the recurrence of Kurdish raids in the spring. Shakir Pasha intends to discuss matters with Zekki Pasha at Erzinghian on his way to Sivas in April.

No. 202.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 21, 1896, 5·30 P.M.*

THE Italian Ambassador has received a telegram from his Consul at Zeitoun in regard to the state of sickness and misery there, which, especially on account of the bitter cold, he describes as inconceivable. Women and girls have not a rag to cover them, and the sick heaped up by hundreds lie near the dead.

The Government is unable to relieve them, and there is no one in the country to whom an appeal can be made.

Some of those who have been sent away from Zeitoun have died from exhaustion on the road.

This information is being forwarded by the Ambassadors to their respective Governments.

I fear our Relief Committee can spare nothing for Zeitoun, the demands from other places being so heavy.

No. 203.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 21, 1896, 6 P.M.*

THE following telegram has been received from the Russian Consul at Aleppo, who is at Aintab on his way back from Zeitoun:—

"The position here is critical, and calls for immediate measures. The new Kaïmakam has imprisoned eighty Christians, and demands a ransom for their liberation. No Mussulman has been imprisoned.

"For the last three months the Christians have been shut up in their houses and do not open their shops.

"The arrogance of the Mussulmans is very great."

No. 204.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 22, 1896, 2·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 37 of the 17th February as to the outrage at Jeddah, I have inquired of the Russian Ambassador and the French Chargé d'Affaires as to the intentions of their respective Governments. They state that they are prepared to join in the necessary steps for obtaining the indemnities, but that they have no special instructions on the subject.

M. de Nélidow considers it most important that the offenders should be punished, as the Hajj is about to begin.

No. 205.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 22, 1896, 11·30 A.M.*

MR. DICKSON telegraphs that yesterday afternoon the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum arrived at Jerusalem, to which place he had recently been exiled. The authorities have placed him in the Armenian Convent at Bethlehem.

No. 206.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 23, 1896, 10 A.M.*

I RECEIVED the following telegram yesterday from Mr. Barnham at Zeitoun for communication to the other Embassies:—

"The Zeitounlis have delivered up their arms and beg for the terms of Porte as to their future security as promised by the Ambasssadors in the collective telegram of the 8th February.

"Majority of refugees refuse to leave before the spring, and the Pasha promises to provide for their food so long as they remain here; he has, however, done everything to facilitate their safe return home.

"Next week we propose to start for Marash, our mission here being finished, but await instructions."

No. 207.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 23, 1896.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Consul Barnham yesterday, relative to the state of affairs at Zeitoun:—

"I confirm my Italian colleague's telegram respecting refugees.

"Their number has not yet been exactly ascertained, but it is less than stated in my telegram of the 12th February, and the deaths amount to about fifty a-day from exhaustion or disease.

"A suitable building has been chosen as a hospital, but we are still waiting for medicine and disinfectants from Marash before the sick can be properly treated.

"One or two cases of typhus have just occurred; small-pox has increased, and we fear an epidemic. We have no funds nor clothing, but do what we can privately.

"It is important that those who can travel should leave at once, as the town is overcrowded, and is still in a frightful state.

"The authorities give soup to the refugees before they leave, and 300 drams of bread daily, but this begins only from the time they start. They are, however, afraid to go, although the Pasha has done everything to restore confidence. The Mussulman villagers have been disarmed, and he has summoned their leaders here to swear to keep peace with the Armenians. This will probably be done to-morrow, and we hope then that the refugees will have no objection to leaving.

"It is important that as soon as possible we should leave for Marash, which is the only centre from which relief can be properly distributed."

No. 208.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 23, 1896, 11·45 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 48 of the 4th February.

Fitzmaurice, who is on his way to Biredjik, telegraphs that he has reached Aleppo. I have instructed him to visit Urfa when the inquiry at Biredjik is finished.

No. 209.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1896.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 70 of yesterday, stating that the French and Russian Ambassadors have no special instructions to take action in regard to the outrage on the Consular officers at Jeddah, but are prepared to join in the steps necessary to obtain payment of the indemnities claimed.

I request you to consult with your French and Russian colleagues, and arrange with them to make a fresh representation in strong terms to the Turkish Government, calling upon them to pay, without delay, the sums demanded, and inquiring what steps are being taken for the punishment of the guilty parties.

There appears to be but little prospect of any effective action being taken for the latter purpose, but the payment of the indemnities ought not to be delayed any longer.

No. 210.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of an article which has appeared in the Turkish newspaper "Sabah," eulogizing the course adopted by the Imperial Government in the difficulties which have beset it during the past year, and expressing satisfaction at the statements made in your Lordship's recent speech at the Nonconformist banquet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Extract from the "Sabah" of February 11, 1896.

(Translation.)

ALL impartial observers now approve the course adopted by the Imperial Government in the difficulties which have beset it both at home and abroad during the past year.

Every Power has been prodigal of its advice, regulated by the point of view of its own interests: some went so far as to send their fleets into the Mediterranean. Indeed, a witty person has stated that the Imperial Government was suffering from fleet on the brain.

However, the Government of the Sultan, well aware that these troubles were but transitory, did not allow tranquillity or the comfort of the inhabitants to be molested.

So the ships have gradually been withdrawn, and the statesmen of Europe are now convinced that it is better not to put pressure on Turkey, but to rely for the execution of the reforms on the well-known magnanimity and capacity of the Sultan. Lord Salisbury has recently made a speech in this sense, in which he refuted the idea that under the Berlin and Cyprus Conventions England was bound to interfere by force of arms; he would never, he said, have instructed an English Representative to sign such a document. This is an excellent lesson for such as misinterpret international engagements.

Certain statements have been made in the foreign press as to the differences of opinion existing between the Palace and the Porte. There is no truth in such assertions, the aim of both being the same, namely, the prosperity and comfort of all Ottoman subjects.

No. 211.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, transmitting the Budget of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 211.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Damascus, February 1, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the budget of the Vilayet of Damascus for the year 1895–96. It will be observed that among the expenditure items that of "intérêts" has been suppressed, while the item of "dépenses locales, traitements" has been divided into two. As I foreshadowed in my despatch of the 11th October, 1893, the expenditure on account of salaries has increased since that date by some 3,000*l.*, the expenses of the Sandjak of Mâan being principally borne by the Damascus Treasury, though the Local Government of the sandjak has managed to collect a certain sum in taxes which partially defrays its expenditure.

It appears from the statement inclosed that there is a deficit of 60,000*l.*, but I am informed that actually the deficit amounts to 100,000*l.*, as the receipts are exaggerated and some items on the expenditure side are suppressed. At the present time the vilayet is indebted to the Ottoman Bank to the amount of 29,000*l.*, and the instalments which have fallen due have not been paid for the last five months. The salaries of nearly all the officials are four months in arrear, and 15,000*l.* is due to the contractors who furnish the troops with supplies. In addition to this, the sum set down under the heading of "Guerre" has not been paid in full, though great efforts have been made since the beginning of October with the result that 50,000*l.* have been handed over to the military chest.

The Defterdar now is engaged in forming a reserve for the Hadj, the incubus that weighs so heavily on the finances of this province.

The extra expense entailed on the army chest by the Hauran expedition does not appear in the budget.

It is clear from the above that the financial position is desperate, and only a few days ago the Vali telegraphed to the Sublime Porte that he was in immediate need of 140,000*l.*, but his Excellency received an evasive reply.

The Defterdar resigned three times and at length his resignation was accepted and his successor has arrived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 211.

BUDGET of the Vilayet of Damascus, 1895–96.

REVENUS DU VILAYET.

	£ E.
Impôt Foncier ("Verghou")	97,300
Patente	10,000
Exonération militaire des Chrétiens	12,700
Moutons	49,100
Dîmes	104,500
Mines et forêts	900
Tapou et transferts	6,370
Revenus des propriétés de l'État	900
Revenus des Tribunaux	3,700
Divers	6,370
Total	291,840

DÉPENSES DU VILAYET.

	£ E.
Magistrature ("Cheri Adlié")	11,700
Dépenses locales, traitements	36,400
Traitements spéciaux (Retraites, &c.)	9,100
Liste Civile	3,700
Guerre	163,640
Gendarmerie, Zaptié, et Tahsildar	40,900
Police	3,640
Service Sanitaire	900
Havalés (y compris la caravane sacrée)	82,000
Total	351,980

No. 212.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 121. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice, commenting on the political situation in the Vilayet of Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Mersina, February 1, 1896.

THOUGH my mission to this town was to make arrangements for appointing a successor to Mr. Dillon, I thought that the following few observations on the political situation in the vilayet may not be without interest to your Excellency.

On my arrival here I found the fanaticism of the Mussulman population deeply stirred as elsewhere in Asia Minor, and although it had not resulted in the wholesale butchery which has disgraced the neighbouring Vilayet of Aleppo, it had vented itself on some hundred thousand Armenian inhabitants of the province in the shape of wholesale plunder accompanied by frequent murders and shocking outrages, while in three places partial massacres had occurred. The Armenians, thoroughly cowed and broken, had, where possible, crowded into the towns; none dared to travel and show themselves on the country roads, and their lands remained untilled.

The Mutessarif of Mersina, Mehmet Nazim Bey, is a man of exceptional character and energy, and would be a much better Governor-General of Adana than the present Vali, Faik Pasha, who has shown great feebleness and incompetence during the recent crisis. In fact, it would be very desirable if the latter were replaced by a more energetic Governor, especially in view of the fact that the solution of the Zeitoun question may lead to a new outbreak of fanaticism in these parts.

The presence of an American war-ship at Mersina during the last three months, and the idea prevalent among the Turkish population that the small naval demonstration would be no idle one in case of necessity, have had a very salutary effect.

I have recently been trying to arrive at the real origin of the last two months' outbreak of fanaticism unexampled as it has been in modern times, and I have arrived at the firm conviction, backed up by the testimony of several influential Mussulmans, who during a number of years have held and still hold high administrative posts, that it has been instigated by the Palace. I do not maintain that categorical orders have been sent to thin down the Armenian population. In Oriental countries the lower rungs of the administrative ladder do not require more than a hint to understand what is expected of them in higher quarters, and in the present instance, there is no doubt in my mind that the Palace has "hinted" that it would be desirable to give the Armenians a good lesson, a hint which has received a very broad interpretation.

Subsequently, when the outburst began to assume alarming proportions, strict orders were sent under outside pressure from Constantinople to suppress disorderly outbreaks on the part of all classes of the population, orders which again most provincial officials interpreted as directed chiefly against the Armenians, and the fact remains that while they have been most vigorous in disarming and punishing Armenians, they have in scarcely any instance made even a pretence of disarming the Mussulmans, while the many thousands of the latter, who under any civil or religious code can only be classed as murderers, have gone almost totally unpunished.

I see by the English press that the above opinions are not universally shared, but I have thought it my duty to put my convictions on record for his Excellency's information.

Though fanatical feeling has been distinctly anti-Armenian, there is also widespread anti-English feeling among Turks, a feeling which has not been unfostered by the central authorities. It is especially strong in Adana and Aleppo, where the unfounded conviction prevails that Armenian revolutionaries have been materially aided and abetted by England through the Government of Cyprus. During my stay in Adana district I have been in frequent

and friendly communication with the chief civil and religious functionaries, and have sought, with a certain success, to disabuse them of such groundless suspicions, pointing out that the Cyprus authorities have in no way countenanced the attempts of certain individuals to make the island a channel for smuggling arms and seditious literature on to the mainland. Some six weeks ago a partial massacre had taken place at Payas, in the Adana Vilayet, and about the 22nd January circumstantial rumours, which have since found their way into the European press, reached me, that a renewed outbreak accompanied by a wholesale massacre of the Armenians, imprisoned in the fortress of Payas, had just taken place. I at once proceeded to Payas, personally visited the fortress, and ascertained that the rumours had their origin in the murder by Turks of several Armenians in the neighbouring villages.

Whilst at Adana, I obtained a list of Armenian political prisoners there. Though under present circumstances I suppose they will have to undergo their trial in the ordinary course, I think it well to forward it to your Excellency, and beg to apologize for doing so in the original Turkish, as pressure of work has not afforded me time to translate it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 213.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 43 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice, expressing his fears as to the possibility of a massacre of the Zeitounlis after the surrender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Smyrna, February 10, 1896.*

YOUR Excellency's telegram informing me that the Foreign Office wished to know the grounds of my belief that the Zeitoun Armenians will be massacred after their surrender reached me to-day by letter from Adana, where it arrived only after my departure from Messina.

It is difficult in more or less European sea-coast towns to realize the depth to which fanaticism has been stirred in districts in the interior which are the scene of present disorders. During my stay in and around Adana I have had frequent intercourse with all classes of Mussulmans, and have found their fanaticism stirred to the greatest depths. They are animated with the old spirit of meeting out "Islam or the sword" to their rebellious Christian subjects. They believe that "rayahs," whom they have allowed to exist in their territory, are traitorously conspiring against Islam and the State, and that it is their duty to their religion to extirpate them, a policy which they have in many cases partially carried out. I have spoken frequently and freely with many officials and others on the subject of Zeitoun, and pointed out to them the disastrous effects that would be produced on public opinion in Europe should the Armenians after surrender be massacred by the Mussulman population; some assented in a half-hearted way, others shrugged their shoulders, saying: "How is it to be helped; had not the Armenians risen in rebellion, cut to pieces some hundreds of Turkish troops, and killed or been the cause of death of some thousands of others; this was the eighth rebellion of Zeitoun, and it ought to be destroyed root and branch." In fact, there exists among Mussulmans a deep-rooted desire to wreak their vengeance on the Armenians of Zeitoun.

This being the frame of mind and determination of the Turkish population, the only guarantee that they will not be allowed to carry out their intention is the word and promise of the Turkish Government. The value of that pledged word is well known to your Excellency, and to all who have had dealings with the Rulers of the Ottoman Empire,

recent events in the interior having given some rude illustration of it, and I do not think I am unjust to the Turkish Government in stating that it is absolutely worthless. A wholesale massacre of the Zeitoun inhabitants may not take place immediately after their surrender. The Turkish Government intends to remove them from Zeitoun and settle them among the Kurdish and Turkish villages of the lowlands, and it is my belief that the Mussulman population will seize an occasion of attacking them and taking their revenge for the loss of Mussulman life which has occurred at Zeitoun. The authorities may make a pretence of protecting them by sending troops, but, after the event, they will reply to any remonstrances addressed to them, that the Zeitounlis attacked the Turks, who retaliated in self-defence.

The only hope I can entertain of my forebodings not being fulfilled is in the enlightened character of the present Vali of Aleppo, Raif Pasha. I recently travelled with his Excellency from Smyrna to Mersina, and took the occasion of impressing upon him the absolute necessity of protecting the lives of the Zeitounlis after surrender. He answered me he would do all in his power, and I have no doubt that if it depended upon him alone, and he was not obliged to take into consideration the attitude of Constantinople and the mood of the Mussulman population, their lives would be safe. Valis in Turkey, however, are not always free agents.

I have ventured to lay these considerations before your Excellency in the hope of perhaps rendering a service to Her Majesty's Government by putting it on its guard against the possibility of subsequently finding itself in an awkward position with regard to the question of Zeitoun. Its action in being mainly instrumental in prevailing upon the inhabitants of Zeitoun to surrender will be construed into a guarantee by the British Government that they will not be unduly molested, and if, after having induced them to abandon their present position and capitulate on the strength of Turkish promises, it should afterwards find itself unable, through the insincerity of those promises, to insure the safety of their lives; the result cannot but be damaging to British prestige.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 214.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout concerning the state of affairs at Lattakin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 214.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, February 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch received from the British Vice-Consul at Lattakia relating to the mission of the two officials appointed by the Vali of Beyrout to investigate the complaints of Christians at that port against their Moslem neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 214.

Vice-Consul Vitale to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

Lattaquié, le 21 Janvier, 1896.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI reçu la dépêche que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 11 courant et je m'empresse de vous informer que les deux fonctionnaires envoyés ici par son Excellence le Vali pour faire des investigations sur les incidents cités dans la lettre que mon collègue Français avait adressée au Mutessarif et dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer par mon rapport du 17 Décembre, an dernier, se sont occupés séparément et conjointement de leur mission et que tous deux sont retournés à Beyrouth par le bateau Autrichien d'avant-hier.

Selon mes informations, le Vali avait promis au Consul-Général de Russie de disculper une femme Chrétienne (de la communauté Orthodoxe) qu'on avait faussement accusé d'avoir maudit le Prophète et qui s'était réfugiée chez le Consul de France. Aussi M. Petkovich avait demandé à son agent ici de l'informer de ce qu'on ferait de cette affaire.

Cette femme a été rassurée et sortit de la maison du Consul de France, auquel on avait affirmé qu'elle n'avait plus rien à craindre.

Mais en vérité la femme n'a pas été disculpée; au contraire, on a constaté sa culpabilité, mais en constatant en même temps que ses adversaires Musulmans avaient aussi maudit son Messie et le cas a été soumis à Constantinople sous prétexte que dans des cas pareils la décision est réservée à la Sublime Porte.

D'un autre côté un certain Youssef Boulos, soi-disant avocat, avait, d'une manière sous-entendue dans une séance du Tribunal, manqué de respect à l'égard du Consul de France et le Tribunal a toujours refusé de l'en punir. Encore, l'autorité l'a pris comme membre du Conseil (Médjilis Idarat) pour les Maronites.

De cette question le Tribunal de Première Instance a été saisi en présence du Procureur-Général du Vilayet (en l'absence du Consul et de son Drogman) et Youssef Boulos a été condamné à une amende pécuniaire d'une demi-livre Turque.

Ce sont, M. le Consul-Général, les deux questions dont les Commissionnaires de son Excellence le Vali se sont occupés ouvertement.

Je suis cependant informé que le Procureur-Général a bien étudié la situation et qu'il n'a pas été content de la marche des affaires dans les Tribunaux; surtout de la conduite du Mustantik (Juge d'Instruction) et du Commissaire de Police, dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer par mon rapport du 17 Décembre, an dernier.

Quant à l'autre fonctionnaire envoyé avec le Procureur-Général, Hanna Effendi Aura (Chrétien), je puis dire qu'il n'a absolument rien fait.

Je doute beaucoup que les dits Commissionnaires de son Excellence le Vali aient demandé le moindre renseignement sur le sort des Arméniens de "Gounémyé," mais je suis sûr que le Mutessarif Sadik Pacha a fait droit à mon intervention officieuse en leur faveur en prenant des mesures suffisantes pour empêcher qu'ils soient molestés ou persécutés de nouveau.

Aussi, je puis dire que pour le moment tout est tranquille en ce district.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) N. VITALE.

No. 215.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the disbandment of the troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, February 7*, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatches dated respectively the 1st, 10th, and 19th November last, I have the honour to report that the battalions of Redifs then called out are being disbanded.

The battalion of Redifs who were brought here from St. Jean d'Acre embarked yesterday for that port and those sent from Beyrout to Sidon and Acre have returned.

Two battalions of Albanians arrived here from Damascus to be embarked for Salonica by the first opportunity, and it is expected that others will shortly arrive.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 216.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15*, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 123 of to-day's date, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout reporting the Vali's statement respecting the condition of the Lattakia district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 216.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, February 7*, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatches dated respectively the 9th ultimo and 1st instant, relative to the state of affairs in the district of Lattakia, I have the honour to report that his Excellency the Vali of Beyrout has addressed me an official note informing me of the result of the visit of the Commissioners sent by him to that port to investigate the complaints that had been made by some Christian inhabitants of that district against their Moslem neighbours.

According to this statement some trifling charges of stone-throwing were proved to be correct, while with reference to the accusation preferred against some Armenians there relating to the possession of prohibited arms, his Excellency adds that the matter was fairly and equitably investigated.

As regards the charge of blasphemy, of which various adherents of both religions are accused, his Excellency informs me that the matter will be referred to the Ministry of Justice.

In conclusion, the Vali states that the rumours respecting the occurrence of disturbances are exaggerated, and that perfect tranquillity prevails in the district in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 217.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 101 of the 5th February, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the close of the Hauran campaign and the persecution of the Druses.

I am making representations to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, February 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that during the recent campaign in the Hauran the Druse Notables of the Lebanon appealed to Nasum Pasha on several occasions on behalf of their co-religionists of Mount Hermon and Kuneitra, and it was owing to his intervention that the Vali of Damascus facilitated the return to their homes of the inhabitants of Mejdel-Shems and other places that had been attacked and looted by Bedouins, Kurds, and Circassians in the presence of the Turkish troops.

Notwithstanding the assurances of the authorities, the Druses were surprised shortly after their return by the appearance of two battalions of troops before Mejdel Shems.

The officer in command summoned the villagers and informed them that the mutilated remains of a Bedouin woman had been discovered in their neighbourhood, and that therefore the district would be made responsible for the crime. He then arrested fifteen Notables, and ordered the confiscation of all fire-arms. The prisoners were handcuffed and dispatched to Damascus.

The Druses of that district have thus been left entirely at the mercy of their fanatical neighbours, who are all well armed.

Even the Druses in the vicinity of Damascus, who conducted themselves well during the presence of the troops in the Hauran, have not escaped persecution.

I telegraphed to your Excellency on the 3rd instant with regard to the brutal treatment of Druse prisoners by Turkish soldiers on their way through Beyrout to embark for Crete, what was witnessed by a member of one of the foreign Consulates and by other Europeans.

Although many of the prisoners belong to Druse families of high standing no allowance is made for their social position, and they are subjected to the same indignities as those of the lowest class.

I beg to submit these facts to your Excellency in the hope that the Sublime Porte may be induced to take steps for the protection of the Druses of the Anti-Lebanon and Mejdel Shems from further persecution, and to insure humane treatment of prisoners.

It is undoubtedly in the interest of the Government, now that the campaign is virtually closed, to suppress the persecution of the Druses, which will certainly continue if the local authorities are left to their own devices.

The complete submission of an independent and warlike race cannot be achieved by oppression.

A system of administration resembling in many respects that of the Lebanon would be the surest means of transforming the Druses of the Hauran and the Anti-Lebanon into peaceful and law-abiding subjects of His Imperial Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 218.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 60 of the 23rd January, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting the campaign in the Hauran and the deportation of the Druses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, February 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that some 300 Druses who had been arrested in the villages in the immediate neighbourhood of Damascus and in the Mount Hermon district have been dispatched to Crete to serve as soldiers. These men were, say the authorities, deserters, but as Local Government connived at the refusal of the Druses to serve, it is hardly compatible with strict justice suddenly to arrest numbers of villagers, some of them old men and others mere youths, more especially as the arrested were, as a rule, peaceable and industrious, and were mostly seen day by day in this town selling their produce.

The truth is that it is a somewhat barbarous method of punishing the Druses in general.

Besides this batch of prisoners, 166 Druses are expected here to-morrow from Suedah. It is the intention of the Government to subject these men to trial, and as they are most of them, I believe, bad characters, and were implicated in the late disorders, they richly deserve their fate.

I was yesterday informed by the Acting Mushir that the Government intends to enforce conscription in the Hauran. From a political point of view this is a measure of doubtful expediency, and I believe it will be found most difficult, if not impossible, to carry it out. If the Government is not cautious, it will arouse a spirit of resistance which will cause endless trouble and expense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 219.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas reporting on the condition of the vilayet. I am causing representations to be made with regard to Bekir Pasha and Adem Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sivas, February 4, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that an effort is being made to remove Bekir Pasha, the Mutessarif of Amassia, from his post, owing to the energy and courage he displayed in checking the massacre and pillage at Amassia. Some time ago Bekir Pasha insisted that Adem Bey, the Military Commandant at Amassia, should be sent away from Amassia, owing to the open encouragement he gave to the massacre and pillage there, and he also demanded an inquiry into his conduct. Adem Bey has been accordingly sent to Tokat. Bekir Pasha also demanded, for the same reason, that a Turk called Emin Kodja should be exiled, and Emin Kodja has been sent to Sivas, but, I am informed, was well received here by the Governor-General, and has written to his friends at Amassia that they need have no fear of Bekir Pasha. The Governor-General is not on good terms with Bekir Pasha, owing, it is said, to his refusing to state that the Armenians were the cause of the disorders, and may force him to resign. If Bekir Pasha's resignation is accepted I consider fresh massacres in the Amassia district most probable, and it will also be a direct encouragement to all who are endeavouring to create disorder, and I therefore beg to point out the desirability of Bekir Pasha's being retained at Amassia, and also that some notice should be taken of the Military Commandant's misconduct.

I have also to report that a considerable number of Gregorian Armenians have recently become Catholics, and should this movement, as is likely, become general, it will have an important bearing on the Armenian question. On Thursday last a deputation from an Armenian village came to Sivas. They were received by the Governor-General, and they stated that they were desirous of becoming Catholics. They were informed that if they did so they should receive protection for their schools and churches, and also assistance. At Sivas also a considerable number have changed their sect, and at Gurun not less than 500, presumably for the sake of the protection it affords. With reference to this, it must be noted, that at Gurun, where at least 2,000 Armenians were killed, not a single Catholic Armenian was touched. I am informed, that the day before the massacre the Armenian Catholics arranged with the Kurds to place a flag on their houses to distinguish them, and that they should not be molested. Many of the Gregorians were hidden by the Catholics during the massacre, and on this becoming known to the Kurds, they came to these houses, and demanded that those hidden should be given up. The point is only important as affording a definite proof that the massacres were pre-arranged.

I beg to report that the fourteen Armenian girls detained in Turkish houses at Kangal, about which I made representations to the Governor-General, have been given up and returned to their families.

I also reported to the Governor-General that Towy Hissar, a village not far from Sivas, was, from time to time, visited by an emigrant from Kars, called Mehemet, who was accustomed to levy a contribution on the village, and had in this way received considerable sums. The Governor-General took action, and I am informed that the village has not been molested since.

I also reported to the Governor-General a case brought to my notice when staying at Kortlukaia, a village ten hours distant from Sivas, where an Armenian had been openly robbed of money and property to the amount of 30*l.* by a Turk. The Governor-General immediately sent an escort, who brought the Turk and Armenian to Sivas, and the Turk was convicted.

This is the only case, among many, in which an Armenian has had sufficient courage to allow me to give his name and the necessary witnesses, and may possibly be an indication of a slight return of confidence among them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 220.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 133.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 18*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Acting Consul Richards at Angora, reporting on the general state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, February 11*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith to your Excellency a few remarks concerning the present state of affairs in this vilayet so far as I have been able to obtain accurate information on the subject since my arrival here.

In Angora itself it would appear that public security and tranquillity are, for the present at all events, fairly well assured, thanks, in great part, no doubt, to the respect and confidence which the present Vali, Tewfik Pasha, had succeeded in inspiring in all classes of the population, irrespective of race or creed. It should, however, be borne in mind that the relations between Mohammedan and Christian in this town have for a great many years past shown far fewer traces of that racial animosity which is so abundantly manifest in most of the large towns in Asia Minor. It is generally acknowledged here by the Christians themselves that they have always got on very fairly well with the Turks, who, though outnumbering them in the proportion of two to one, have never shown any marked disposition to oppress or ill-treat them, as is so often the case elsewhere. This is, no doubt, due to the fact that the Christians, who, though in a considerable minority, are much better off than the Turks, have been in the past and still are, though to a less extent, large employers of Turkish labour. Moreover, the former as the moneyed class almost monopolize the available capital in the town, so that a small Turkish tradesman or peasant would necessarily have recourse to a Christian merchant for any pecuniary advances of which he may stand in need.

This being so, it should not be a matter for surprise that in spite of such incidents as the Kaisarieh massacre, the recent disturbance at Kala'adjik, Circassian forays in the neighbourhood of Yosgat, and various other occurrences of a more or less disquieting nature in different parts of this vilayet, there is at present no tendency whatever to panic among the Christian inhabitants of this town. There is, it is true, a decided change within the last few months in the general attitude of the Turks towards their Christian fellow-townsmen, but this change of demeanour has not hitherto assumed such an open and undisguisedly aggressive character as would warrant the Christians in believing that their lives and property are in any real danger. Indeed, I am informed that public confidence has, if anything, somewhat gained strength in Christian circles during the last few days.

At the same time, it cannot be denied that beyond the limits of the town there is not that security for life and property which is enjoyed within its walls. I hear that many Christian merchants and others dare not go out into the neighbouring cazas in the pursuit of their business avocations because the roads are far from safe. It was only to-day that I was informed that a Greek, named Bezirdji Christo, was quite recently attacked and robbed on the road between Shimshit and Ahmedtchaïr, at a distance of only six hours from Angora; and although he subsequently tracked the robber to his village and informed the Headman of what had occurred, no attempt was made to have the guilty man arrested, although the stolen property was found in his possession.

Another man, an Armenian, was recently robbed and murdered at Khanderé, about

ten hours distance from Angora, by a band of Turkish shepherds, some of whom, it is true, were arrested and imprisoned here, but they were subsequently released on the alleged ground that the proof of their guilt was not established. Other incidents of a similar nature are not uncommon.

To go somewhat further afield, an incident occurred in Kaisarieh towards the end of last month which threatened to have very serious consequences for the Armenians of that city. The dead body of a Turk, who had evidently met with a violent death, was found one morning in front of an Armenian house. Some Turks raised the alarm, and, owing to the position in which the body was found, declared with loud cries that a Christian had murdered a Turk, and revenge must be taken forthwith for the outrage. In a few minutes there was a formidable Mussulman crowd, who, brandishing weapons of various sorts, shouted that they would "do for" all the Christians. Fortunately, at this juncture the Liva Pasha appeared on the scene, and tried his utmost to pacify the mob by shouting that justice should be done by the constituted authorities, and the guilty man, whoever he might be, would pay the penalty of his crime. It is doubtful how far the Pasha, even with the best intentions, would have succeeded in dispersing the crowd, had not a Turk come forward most opportunely and declared to the Commandant in a loud voice that it was a Turk and not a Christian who had committed the murder, the dead man being, he asserted, his own nephew. He added that if the Pasha would give him a little time, he, with the help of a few friends, would seize the murderer and bring him before him. To this the Commandant eagerly consented, and, in fact, within twenty minutes this person reappeared accompanied by a few others who brought with them a Turk whom the uncle of the deceased declared he was in a position to prove, at the proper time and place, to be the murderer of his nephew. The infuriated crowd, which a short time before was thirsting for Christian blood, gradually recovered its equanimity, and it was with no great difficulty that the Pasha succeeded in dispersing it. On the following day the Mutessarif (? Akif Pasha) called up all the principal Turkish Notables of the town and solemnly admonished them. He told them that if ever there were a repetition of the scene of the previous day he would hold them responsible, and they should all be severely punished. It is to be hoped that this caution will have a salutary effect. At the same time, the incident shows that the turbulent and blood-thirsty spirit which was the cause of the recent terrible massacre in Kaisarieh is still predominant, and that any pretext, however slight, is sufficient to arouse it in all its savage ferocity.

From Yosgat I have just received reports of various acts of oppression and robbery, which at the first opportunity I shall bring to the notice of the Vali.

To return to Angora, I should mention that very great pressure is being brought to bear upon all those who owe arrears of taxes, but here again a distinction is constantly being made between Turks and Christians.

For instance, a certain Mevlana Shihi, a Turkish Notable, who owes 7,000 piastres to the Treasury, was recently summoned to the Government House and ordered to pay the amount.

He, after considerable hesitation, consented to pay 500 piastres, and on promising to pay the balance after Ramazan was allowed to leave.

Another Turkish Notable, named Doigarzadé, who owes arrears of taxes to the extent of 17,000 piastres, was sent for and ordered to pay the amount due. On his alleging various excuses for not complying with this demand a discussion ensued, which, however, terminated in his being dismissed without any payment whatever being made.

A certain Kassapian, an Armenian Catholic, on the other hand, was compelled to pay 15,000 piastres, this being the whole of the amount which he owed to the Treasury.

At present, there are forty-two persons in prison for inability to pay arrears of taxation, of whom three are Turks, one a Greek, and the remainder Armenians (Gregorian and Catholic); and this, though, as stated above, the Turks form by far the majority of the population, and are certainly the poorest, and therefore the more likely to be in arrears with their taxes.

I should mention that twenty-four tax-collectors were recently imprisoned for twelve hours for not performing their duties to the satisfaction of their superiors. This, I am told, is not an uncommon occurrence. According to one statement a sum of 11,000*l.* has to be raised from this vilayet, while others put the sum as high as 17,000*l.*

In conclusion, I have to state that the Angora garrison consists at present of only

100 men, who are what is known as "Ihtiyat," a sort of intermediate stage between the "Nizam," or regular troops, and the "Redifs," or reserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 221.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 18, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Consul Longworth at Trebizond respecting the late disturbances and doings of the Relief Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, February 7, 1896.*

IN connection with my despatches on the disturbances of October last, I have the honour to annex herewith a Table giving the number of Armenians killed, and houses burnt in those parts of the vilayet where disorders of a serious nature had occurred.

The Return is reliable enough, compiled as it has been from notes gathered with no little care by the local branch of the Anglo-American Relief Committee. Wayfarers and strangers, however, are excluded from the estimate, as it has been impossible to ascertain the number missing with any degree of accuracy. Hence, it is that although at Trebizond itself more than 400 bodies were seen interred, the figure given in the column of killed is only 298. The death-roll, in other words, takes in exclusively the locally registered inhabitants, a mode of reckoning which, though defective in computing the loss of life at each place, may serve, perhaps, in arriving at a totality of the whole Empire.

Funds from the United Kingdom, from the United States, and from other sources came happily in time to save from hunger and cold those left in a destitute condition. Through the good offices of the American missionaries, Dr. Parmelee and Mr. Crawford, the suffering of some 5,000 souls are being alleviated by the distribution of blankets, clothing, and money. The authorities, and especially the Governor-General, Cadri Bey, have accorded to the work no little encouragement. The support thus given is much appreciated by the Relief Committee, particularly so, as the inquiry of the Porte on their proceedings was of a significance rather dubious. The progress made by this charitable undertaking will be found indicated with brevity in the subjoined record of meetings and statements of accounts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

RETURN of Losses sustained by Armenians in the Cantons of Trebizond and Gumushkhaneh during the October Disturbances.

No.	Locality.	Population.			Houses and Shops.		Remarks.
		Killed.	Emigrated.	Remaining.	Looted.	Burnt.	
1	Trebizond ..	298	1,725	5,780	380	..	Riot occurred on 8th October. Number killed include twelve women and six Armeno-Catholics. There were besides nine Turks and three Greeks killed. The shops looted numbered 162.
2	Matchka ..	7	19	299	30	..	
3	Elmonos ..	2	125	155	27	10	
4	Akchak Derch ..	2	123	177	21	..	
5	Sifter	3	16	224	13	2	
6	Abon	..	126	409	33	4	
7	Gulnaokasa ..	..	29	18	2	1	
8	Sgnfia	1	128	245	28	17	
9	Minseli						
10	Keyishlik ..						
11	Gumila	3	111	156	38	15	
12	Tatosli	..	26	168	..	..	
13	Djoslara	..	87	185	7	1	
14	Olassa	4	1	87	8	7	
15	Prastios	1	..	13	2	2	
16	Khotz	1	6	2	1	..	
17	[illegible] ..	3	11	212	28	3	
18	G[illegible] ..	..	23	189	32	7	
19	M[illegible] ..	1	54	307	14	2	
20	[illegible] ..	..	28	89	13	10	
21	Hara	..	38	63	8	1	
22	Khotchorod ..	5	4	69	12	..	
23	Zizuksa	2	..	210	28	16	
24	Dzifriga	6	55	194	20	5	
25	Vetcha	1	28	217	24	10	
26	[illegible] ..	..	8	340	30	20	
27	[illegible] ..	6	141	2[illegible]9	71	70	Thirty country houses burnt.
28	[illegible] ..	5	57	151	26	2	
29	Aghrid	1	10	196	25	15	
30	Dundoglit ..	1	2	71	10	3	
31	Anifa	..	53	64	10	3	
32	[illegible] ..	2	16	177	15	..	
33	Gaban	2	10	220	16	8	
34	Toz	..	27	128	15	6	
35	Ich	2	2	176	17	3	
36	Mahmad	..	7	71	9	2	
37	Mozoroor	3	11	10	9	9	Besides one Greek killed.
38	Goubhla	1	12	49	5	4	
39	Gavara	2	28	51	8	6	
40	Kissarna	..	1	5	1	..	
41	Barian	10	84	295	28	8	
42	Dantzoud	1	14	245	9	3	
43	Khamo	1	72	135	7	1	
44	Samira	..	42	132	3	2	
45	Mounda	1	16	61	10	2	
46	Shana	..	272	560	..	1	
47	Djoghila						
48	Gaskana						
49	Sumaoukasa ..	..	215	291	2	..	
50	Zavoudda	..	4	315	10	6	
51	Kran	2	16	103	4	..	
52	Gavy	..	89	337	28	4	
53	Mouria	..	74	215	23	3	
54	Gumus	1	185	109	7	5	
55	Satania	1	380	453	25	12	
56	Gokhali	2	15	58	7	1	
57	Drona	2	9	70	8	1	
58	Gumushkhaneh ..	118	200	1,182	65	4	Riot occurred on 25th October. Turks killed, seven; shops looted, seventy.
59	Sivoun	5	20	475	70	..	
60	Kelkit	..	480	270	60	..	
	Grand total ..	507	5,197	16,979	1,510	320	

No. 222.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 135.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Jeddah, reporting on the state of affairs in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jeddah, January* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to state that the Acting Vice-Consul at Hodeidah reports to me as follows :—

With reference to Reuter's telegram from Aden which appeared some time ago in the English press, to the effect that a force of 45,000 Arabs were threatening Sanâ : During August last the Mudir of Hofash sent some police with one officer to a village in the neighbourhood of Hofash to collect Government taxes. The villagers proving recalcitrant, the principal inhabitants were arrested. These latter belonged to the tribes of Beni-Enjad and Benj-el-Meimoun, who are allies, and are followers of the Imam Hamed-Uddin.

These Bedouins, who were in the neighbourhood, entered the village and released the prisoners. The police then retreated, and were pursued to Hofash by the Bedouins, who fired on them. The Bedouins were then induced by a Sheikh of Jabel Hofash to retire. After they had retired the regular troops arrived, but do not appear to have followed them. This, in the Acting Vice-Consul's opinion, would appear to be the sole foundation for the Reuter's telegram above referred to.

I should add that private letters received here from the Yemen during the last few months have made no mention of any unusual disturbances, although the fact that large numbers of Turkish troops passed through Jeddah in the autumn, on their way to the Yemen, led many people here to suppose that serious troubles had occurred in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 223.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 136.)

My Lord, *Pera, February* 18, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 817 of the 19th November last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Report by the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Erzeroum on the Memorandum drawn up by the Consuls on the subject of the recent disturbances in the capital of the vilayet. I have forwarded this Report to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum for any observations which he may have to offer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Report by the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

Renseignements fournis par le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Erzeroum sur les faits mentionnés dans le Mémorandum dressé par le Consul-Général de Russie, les Consuls d'Italie et d'Angleterre, et le Vice-Consul de France, au sujet des désordres qui se sont produits au chef-lieu du vilayet.

1. IL n'est point exact que la population Musulmane fût prête depuis quelque temps à attaquer les Arméniens, mais comme ceux-ci, outre les incidents qu'ils avaient provoqués à Constantinople, à Trébizonde, et à Baybourt, avaient aussi commis dans le Vilayet d'Erzeroum même des méfaits sans précédents tels que par exemple l'assassinat atroce à Huns du Cheik Haidar, qui jouissait d'une grande considération auprès des Musulmans; l'enlèvement de la fille et de la bru de Khalo Agha, Chef du tribu et Capitaine de la Cavalerie Hamidié, on était porté à croire qu'ils se livreraient aussi à des actes d'agression pour susciter des troubles dans cette province et provoquer des représailles de la part des Musulmans.

2. L'autorité défend toujours, conformément à une mesure générale, aux populations tant Musulmane que Chrétienne, de porter des armes. Seuls les habitants des villages environnants et la plupart des tribus Kurdes qui se rendent vers la fin de l'automne à Erzeroum pour y porter du combustible, des vivres, et d'autres objets qu'ils y vendent et y faire leurs propres provisions pour l'hiver, portent souvent sur eux, suivant un ancien usage, des armes tranchantes. Comme ils ne font que passer à Erzeroum pour le régiement de leurs affaires, l'autorité ne leur enlève pas leurs armes.

3. Les soldats de l'infanterie ont rempli leurs devoirs et déployé tous leurs efforts pour protéger les habitants et rétablir l'ordre et la sécurité. Seulement, les Arméniens ayant tiré des maisons et des boutiques sur les Musulmans et les troupes Impériales, celles-ci ont dû nécessairement riposter. Pendant ces désordres, il a pu se faire que des Arméniens qui n'avaient point fait usage de leurs armes aient été également atteints.

4 et 5. Le corps d'un fourrier de gendarmerie, assassiné par les Arméniens dans le conak en plein exercice de ses fonctions, a été vu après le crime, par les Chanceliers et Drogmans des Consulats étrangers, à l'endroit même où il était tombé.

Du reste, le nommé Manouk, arrêté par la police peu de temps avant l'incident au moment même où il engageait les Arméniens à fermer leurs boutiques, a avoué, lors de son interrogatoire, que c'est sur un ordre de Mihran Effendi, Secrétaire de l'Évêque Arménien d'Erzeroum, qu'il visitait ces boutiques et exhortait les Arméniens à les fermer en prévision du dit incident. Il a déclaré aussi que l'Évêque précité a dit, en prêchant à ses ouailles, que les Arméniens doivent, pour pouvoir obtenir l'autonomie, provoquer des désordres. D'ailleurs, en tirant de tous côtés des coups de feu sur le conak, sur les troupes Impériales, et sur les Musulmans, les Arméniens ont suffisamment prouvé leurs idées subversives. Les Notables Arméniens ont déclaré de leur côté, que les troubles dont il s'agit avaient été suscités par leurs coreligionnaires sur les insinuations perfides et l'initiative de l'Évêque précité.

Ces faits sont implicitement reconnus par Messieurs les Consuls eux-mêmes, qui déclarent, dans leur Mémorandum, que "de nombreux Arméniens avaient des armes et étaient prêts à s'en servir et qu'ils ont tiré de quelques maisons et boutiques."

6. Le nombre des morts indiqué dans le dit Mémorandum est à peu près le même que celui rapporté par les autorités Impériales.

7. Sur 1,500 maisons et environ 2,000 boutiques Arméniennes que compte Erzeroum, approximativement 210 maisons dont une trentaine seule appartiennent à des familles aisées et 500 boutiques ont été pillées.

8. A son arrivée à Erzeroum, le Vali a pu constater qu'outre les incidents survenus dans quelques-unes des autres provinces de l'Empire et les deux méfaits cités plus haut, les agitateurs Arméniens, en mettant à mort de la façon la plus cruelle les Musulmans qu'ils rencontraient dans les endroits isolés, en proférant des propos indécents à l'adresse de femmes Musulmanes devant les portes des bains publics et en assassinant Artin Effendi, Avocat, et Simon Effendi, Membre du Tribunal de Commerce, qui avaient refusé de prendre leur parti, n'avaient pour but que de pousser des Arméniens naïfs à se livrer à des attaques, meurtres et pillages contre les Musulmans pour provoquer des représailles de la part de ceux-ci. Aussi, en vue de prévenir de pareils actes, le Commandant Militaire, avant l'incident et après entente avec le Vali, a-t-il muni les Commandants des régiments d'infanterie, cavalerie, et de l'artillerie volante et de forteresse d'instructions écrites spécifiant les localités qu'ils devaient protéger dans le cas où des troubles viendraient à éclater et indiquant la façon dont ils devaient procéder ainsi que la conduite à tenir pour empêcher les habitants de prendre part à l'incident et de commettre des pillages.

De son côté, le Gouverneur-Général a donné aux gendarmes et aux agents de police toutes les instructions nécessaires à ce sujet et adopté des mesures de précaution.

C'est grâce à ces dispositions que lors des désordres, la plupart des maisons, boutiques, et magasins Arméniens ont pu être préservés du pillage. Mais comme les troubles avaient éclaté soudainement, les troupes Impériales n'ont pas malheureusement empêché qu'un certain nombre d'immeubles fussent saccagés. Toutefois, plus de 80 pour cent des meubles, marchandises, et effets enlevés furent bientôt découverts par les soins des Commissions instituées à cet effet et restitués à leurs propriétaires, auxquels leurs autres objets sont de même restitués au fur et à mesure qu'ils sont retrouvés.

Les troubles avaient été réprimés le jour même de leur éclosion et grâce aux détachements de soldats et de gendarmes qui furent postés sur divers points de la ville et dans les localités éloignées, l'ordre et la tranquillité ne tardèrent pas à être complètement rétablis.

No. 224.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 137.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 18, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Williams at Van respecting the condition of that district. I intend to bring the suggestions therein contained to the notice of the Commission of Control.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Vice-Consul Williams to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Van, January 26, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this district remains quiet.

On the night of the Greek Christmas Eve an Armenian Bishop residing here was assassinated. It seems probable that he was killed by the revolutionary party on account of his Turkish sympathies.

The Vali informs me that he is ready to carry out Articles 20 and 21 of the reforms, by enlisting Christian police, but that there is some difficulty in finding men willing to serve. I hope, however, that this matter will be arranged shortly.

I have made many inquiries, and am of opinion that the number of Armenians killed in the district does not exceed 300. I am also confirmed in my opinion that the people will get through the winter with such help as is forthcoming; but I would most strongly urge on your Excellency the necessity of Government help for these poor people in the coming spring. In many villages they have neither cattle for ploughing, nor seed to sow.

Generally, I am of opinion that the outlook is fairly good considering recent events. The Vali is a good man, and the Procureur-Général, a most unsatisfactory official, has been dismissed and replaced.

The main question is, however, whether it will be possible to maintain security for the villagers next spring.

The dangerous elements appear to be the Kurds and the revolutionary Armenians.

The Vali is anxious about certain Kurdish tribes whose boundaries extend on either side of the Persian frontier, and he is afraid that the Persian portions of these tribes may start raiding again. There is also the even more serious danger of armed revolutionaries crossing the frontier. I would suggest that the Persian Government be asked to help in these matters. A careful watch on all Armenians at Diliman and in the district of Salamas, west of Lake Urumia, would do much to mitigate this danger.

As regards the Kurds in Turkish territory there should be no difficulty. A Chief here and there summoned to Erzeroum and kept as a hostage, or a few arrests, would give

the greatest confidence to the Armenians, and probably prevent further outrages. One very simple way of keeping these people in order would be to place certain villages under the protection of the Commanders of the Hamidieh regiments, holding them responsible for any damage or loss to the villages under their care. Where there are no Hamidieh regiments, local Chiefs might be made responsible. There is, however, one point in the organization of these regiments which is a bar to any satisfactory arrangement. I am informed that the Commanders are all directly under the orders of the Mushir at Erzinghian. This should be changed, and they should be under the orders of the General Officer commanding the Division in whose district they may happen to be, through whom only they should report to the Mushir. The effect of this would be to enable the local Commander to deal at once with any emergency, while the Kurdish Chiefs serving in the Hamidieh cavalry would be brought into touch with the local Commander instead of depending on an officer who is too far away to be a reality to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 225.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 142.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Barnham, reporting on the situation at Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aintab [undated].*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Consular Commission arrived in this city on Sunday, the 19th instant, and will leave to-morrow for Marash, and that the delay has arisen from the terrible condition of the roads and the complete breakdown of the Russian Consul's caravan, whose Takhervan (Palanquin) was abandoned in a swamp some six hours from Aintab, where three of his mules perished.

The local authorities received the Commission with every honour, and a house was prepared for our reception, but the sullen attitude of the Moslem population whenever we have had occasion to pass through the streets leaves no doubt on my mind that we are unwelcome guests.

When we arrived the streets, which are more spacious than those of Aleppo, were densely crowded with Turks and Arabs, but not a single Christian was visible. We thought that this was due to the fact that it was Sunday, but the following day there was little difference, and the conviction which is forced upon me, after seeing the situation out of doors and hearing the opinion of those who cannot be prevented by spies from approaching us, is that there will soon be a terrible catastrophe at Aintab. News from Marash points to a similar event in that city, and I have therefore thought it my duty to send your Excellency a telegraphic message describing the situation, and pointing out how much depends upon the result of the present mission to Zeitoun, for if it fails the Moslems will be exasperated to the last degree, and nothing will prevent them from falling upon and exterminating the Christians.

I send the telegram with this despatch to Vice-Consul Catoni at Aleppo with instructions to forward it, thinking it imprudent to excite the attention of the Turks here by sending long cypher telegrams from this place.

In the event of further massacres occurring at Marash, the members of the Consular Mission will be in personal danger.

It is said that those among the Mahommedans who took an active part in the massacre at Aintab fancy that the Consular Commission will eventually be charged with the duty of searching out the authors of that crime.

I, however, fail to see anything in the behaviour of the authorities but the utmost contempt and defiance of European interference.

They have evidently made up their minds to lay hands upon every wealthy Armenian in Aintab, and to appropriate his goods.

Aleppo gaol is filling fast, as will be seen from the Memorandum which I have the honour to forward herewith, and I am assured that further arrests will be made directly the Consuls have proceeded on their journey.

I would beg your Excellency that the influence of Her Majesty's Government may be exercised on behalf of these unfortunate men, who, in many cases, are absolutely innocent of anything beyond the one fact that they are Armenians.

I have asked Vice-Consul Catoni to ascertain when these men will be brought to trial, and keep your Excellency informed of anything that transpires concerning them, and I would respectfully suggest that the Dragomans of the Consulates should be present at their trial.

The report recently forwarded to your Excellency, that some Armenians of Aintab had already been condemned to death, has not been confirmed.

The accusations which have been made against the Armenians of having used bombs and vitriol should carry little weight. They were thrown in the last extremity to save life, and only one case of each is mentioned here.

The story that the water had been poisoned by the Armenians was false.

The murderers who should be punished are the Moslem leaders, Nouri Bey, Tahir Bey, Ali Bey, son of Rassim Pasha, Arif Agha, Missirli Zadé, and Veli Agha of the gendarmerie, and those among the butchers and other shopkeepers in the city who committed the more frightful deeds.

I write this after hearing from the lips of a Franciscan Father the narrative of what he saw from the windows of the Convent.

The attack on the Christian quarter began under his very eyes. The butchers and the tanners, with sleeves tucked up to the shoulders, armed with clubs and cleavers, cut down the Christians, with cries of "Allahu Akbar!" broke down the doors of the houses with pickaxes and levers, or scaled the walls with ladders. Then when mid-day came they knelt down and said their prayers, and then jumped up and resumed the dreadful work, carrying it on far into the night.

Wherever they were unable to break down the doors they fired the houses with petroleum, and the fact that at the end of November petroleum was almost unpurchasable in Aleppo suggests that enormous quantities were bought up and sent north for this purpose. Large quantities have been used for burning the bodies of dead here in Marash and in Urfa. Twenty-six beautiful houses in Aintab were destroyed in this way, and many shops and stores. During the massacre the word "Ingiliz" was bandied about with every form of ribald insult, due to the legend that the Zeitounlis are led by Englishmen, and that we had supplied the Armenians with arms. On the second day 20,000 Kurds, Turks, and Arabs from the surrounding villages collected in the gardens near the Convent, having a green flag and beating tom-toms. Strange event! This enormous throng was dispersed by the arrival of the Mufti and twenty soldiers. They were not allowed to enter the town, because it was feared that they would plunder Moslems as well as Christians.

Plunder was carried off on camels' backs or by men and women who passed before the walls of Aintab College, and disappeared over the hills. Much of this has been told before, but it is evidence which must be emphasized in order to refute the accusations so wantonly hurled against these poor Armenians of Aintab. It is also, I fear, a miniature of what will shortly occur. The actual situation is that the Christians to the number of 750 remain shut up in the Armenian church, where they receive rations of food from a joint Committee of Gregorian and Protestant Armenians; that the Armenian shops are all closed; their owners, disarmed, remain indoors in an agony of fear, in precisely the same state as the people of Ourfa, who were all killed some weeks ago, and, meantime, the Moslems are keeping their swords and cleavers sharp and ready.

A circumstance was mentioned to me to-day, as perhaps showing the receipt of direct instructions from the Palace for the inauguration of the massacres here and elsewhere. About the time that the Armenian reform scheme was promulgated, a number of persons from Constantinople, dressed as Dervishes, arrived in Aintab, were received with great honour, and, after spending several days in earnest conference with the leading Moslems, left for Marash, Birejdjik, and Ourfa, but returned to Aintab a few days before the massacre, at which they were present.

The following details have just been received of the massacre at Birejdjik, being an oral statement made by two girls who have just arrived here from that place:—

The Christian population of Biredjik consisted of about 200 houses. For two months past Christians had been almost wholly kept within doors from fear.

On the 1st January, about two hours after sunrise, the massacre began without apparent cause, and continued until night. The soldiers and Moslems of the city generally participated in the work, and it appears that no outsiders took part in it.

Profession of Islam or death was the alternative for all men—ninety-six are known to have been killed. Many of the victims were dragged to the Euphrates, and with weights tied to their feet thrown in.

One young man was caught and a rope thrown round his neck, and he was dragged off. Three times he succeeded in freeing himself and getting on his feet, but was finally overpowered, bound, thrown alive into the river, and drowned. All the Christian houses were pillaged except two, which were saved by Moslem neighbours, who claimed them as their own. Christian girls were eagerly sought after during the plunder, and much dispute and quarrelling occurred in dividing them among the captors. They tried to marry them to Moslem young men as soon as possible, but Government interfered, reclaimed them, and sent to their friends all they could find. Forty-two were so returned, and two were married to Moslems. There is not now a single Christian remaining in Biredjik. Many men were killed after offering to accept Islam.

The Moslem women are calling upon the recently converted women, congratulating them on their new faith, and teaching them its observances. As the Turks doubted the sincerity of the new converts, they arranged a second massacre, which was only averted by their promising to change the Armenian church into a mosque, and they are now at work making the required changes in the building.

The Protestant church will be converted into a Moslem school-house if the American Mission does not claim it as American property.

The wife and child of the Protestant preacher (he is himself a prisoner in Ourfa) and two young lady teachers, with about twenty other persons, have hid themselves in a cellar, but were discovered and dragged out by the mob, all the men and boys among them being killed, and the women and children carried off to Moslem houses. For more than a fortnight every effort was made to force them to embrace Islam, but they steadfastly refused, and at last the Government received an order from the Vali of Aleppo to send them under escort to that place. 1,500 Armenians were burnt alive in the church at Ourfa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Memorandum on some Incidents of the Massacre at Aintab on November 16, 1895, and of the Treatment of the Christians since that time.

(Confidential.)

1. HAGOP AGHA BOLIOSIAN, member of the First Church of the Protestant Community, and possessed of considerable wealth. Age about 55, but looks 65. His house was attacked and plundered, his wife and one son killed, and he himself wounded in the hand. Because the son who was killed used fire-arms in defence of their lives, the house was burned later on and the father cast into prison, where, from inadequate care, his wound got worse and threatened his life. He was allowed to be taken to the hospital under bond of £ T. 200, where he still lives.

2. A neighbour of No. 1, Hagop Agha Babikian, and his brother, Babik Babikian, were also among the few Christians who attempted to defend their lives. Although they did not do this until after their shops and houses were looted and they themselves were attacked by the mob, they are said to have killed five or six of their assailants. Their houses also were burned next night. They themselves were with difficulty kept in hiding for several days, and finally, upon demand of the Government, gave themselves up. These men are now in prison in Aleppo, charged with treason and manslaughter by bomb throwing. Of this latter statement there is absolutely no proof, and they deny it themselves.

3. Leyleckian. These men are wealthy and prominent Armenians who escaped with their lives and property, but are now in prison in Aleppo on the charge of having hired and sent substitutes to fight for them at Zeitoun. The evidence in the case was procured as follows: An Armenian stone-cutter, named Avedis Meckickjian, had been at work upon a mosque being built by the Government at Bambug, twelve hours south-east of Aintab. Hearing that his house had been looted and getting indefinite news of his

family, he started for Aintab, was robbed on the road, and arrived after dark, wounded and naked. The soldiers arrested him, and told him that he must say that he had come from Zeitoun, and that he had been sent there by the Leyleckian as their substitute. When he refused to tell the lie they beat him severely and repeatedly, and in the morning cast him into prison. Two days later he was sent in chains to Aleppo. When Dr. Shepherd repeated this story to the Miralai a day or two later, that official said that the man had testified of his own free will against the Leyleckians. The witness still lies in prison at Aleppo, and his family are dependent on charity at Aintab for their daily bread.

4. Garabed Agha Barsumian, a wealthy Armenian, another of the twenty-four prisoners recently sent to Aleppo on false charges, was in his own house during the whole time of the massacre. Nothing occurred in that neighbourhood, yet he has been arrested on the accusation of having shot a Moslem during the massacre.

After the massacre about 150 wounded Christians and 1 Moslem were treated in the Mission Hospital. Most of these had multiple wounds caused by axes, knives, meat cleavers, and a few by bayonets and gun-shots. One man, who had seventeen wounds, had been dragged for some distance through the streets by a rope tied to his feet and thrown on a dunghill as dead, but under careful nursing he recovered. A wounded boy was about to be treated in the same way, when the soldiers, seeing the dogs lapping his blood, said, "Let him alone; they will eat him and save us the trouble." The boy now blesses the dogs for having saved his life.

The dead were either burned with petroleum or cast into old quarries on the outskirts of the city, while a number were carried into an old distillery and the building fired.

Since the massacre either of the victims or of those who have died since only three or four have been buried in the graveyard, the remainder having been interred in the neighbourhood of the churches or in the courts of their own houses.

At the present no Christian dares to venture into the market without military escort, all business is at a standstill, and there is a constant terror that the past horrors may be repeated at any moment.

7. Garabed Nazaretian, the agent of the Ottoman Bank, a wealthy and much respected Armenian, against whom there is not a shadow of suspicion, was invited to Aleppo by European friends, but on his arrival was cast into prison on information received by telegraph from Aintab that he had killed a man.

8. Mekarlian, agent of M. Marcopoli.

Aintab, January 20, 1896.

No. 226.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 143.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 19, 1896.*

ON the 6th February the Dragomans of the British, French, and Russian Embassies, in accordance with instructions from their respective Ambassadors, attended the Commission of Control which was sitting at the Porte under the presidency of Shefik Bey.

They ascertained that the Commission had no special instructions whatsoever, and that it corresponded with the local authorities through the Grand Vizier's Department. After protracted discussion, it was admitted generally by the three Dragomans that for the present at any rate the Commission might continue to correspond through the Grand Vizier's Department, as the authorities would pay more attention to his instructions than to those emanating direct from the Commission.

Mr. Block pointed out, however, that in the question of the reforms the decision of the Commission was final, and that it would be most inadvisable that the Grand Vizier should raise objections to its proposals either on his own initiative or after consulting the Council of Ministers, as seems sometimes to have been the case: the Commission was, he said, an independent body, and the Embassies would maintain its independence were it assailed.

This was agreed to, and it was further decided that the Commission should draw up a Report to the Grand Vizier, requesting that their decisions in urgent matters might be submitted directly to his Highness, instead of passing through his Department, which sometimes entailed a delay of several days.

The Dragomans further ascertained that the only reforms which had been carried into effect so far were the appointment of judicial inspectors and of the Mouavins (assistants) to the Valis. With regard to the former, the Commission had themselves

suggested to the Minister of Justice that the Inspectors should draw up a report every three months which should be submitted to the Commission, which would then decide whether or no they discharged their duties satisfactorily. No reply has been so far vouchsafed by the Ministry of Justice to this suggestion.

With regard to the Mouavins of the Valis, the Dragomans pointed out that the nominations were not satisfactory; although not stated in so many words, it had been clearly understood that in provinces where the Christian majority was Armenian, the Mouavins should be Armenian, whereas only two had been appointed in the six vilayets. The Commission stated, in reply, that they preferred to leave to the Porte the responsibility of the appointment of the Mouavins: when appointed they would be judged according to their acts, and if these proved unsatisfactory, the Commission would not hesitate to demand their removal. It was decided to request the Grand Vizier to instruct the newly appointed Mouavins to proceed at once to their posts.

The Commission then announced that Shakir Pasha was engaged in forming a corps of gendarmerie, in which Christians should be employed. It appears, however, that all that has been done practically is to obtain statistics of the population of the Erzeroum Vilayet, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith. Your Lordship will observe that, according to these statistics, 18 per cent. of the population is Christian, and should participate in that proportion in the gendarmerie.

The Commission appeared on the whole to be well intentioned, and competent to carry out their mission with success, provided a free hand is left to them. This can only be assured by the support of the Embassies.

Zihni Pasha has arrived in Constantinople, but, notwithstanding the promises of the Sultan, he has not yet been appointed President of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 226.

POPULATION of Vilayet of Erzeroum, as furnished by the Vali to the Commission of Control, January 1896.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Moslems	273,321	237,819	511,140
Non-registered*	..	..	34,642
			545,782
Armenians	59,232	51,880	111,112
Armeno-Catholics	4,116	4,044	8,160
Greeks	1,714	1,613	3,327
Protestants	656	552	1,208
Copts	60	61	121
Jews	3	3	6
Total	..	..	123,934

Viz., 18 per cent. of the population are Christian.

* The Commission has asked the Vali how many Christians are unregistered.

No. 227.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 144.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 7th January and to my telegrams as marked in the margin* respecting the Zeitoun mediation, your Lordship is aware that the Consuls started from Aleppo on the 16th January, and reached Zeitoun on the 31st January.

* Nos. 86* and 136*.

Mr. Barnham's account of the first interview with the Zeitounlis which took place on the 1st February was also repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 45 of the 2nd instant.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of the further telegraphic correspondence which has passed between the Ambassadors and the Consuls, showing the course of the negotiations, and dealing with the question of the treatment of the villagers who had taken refuge in Zeitoun.

I also inclose copies of three letters from the German Ambassador, who, at the request of his colleagues, undertook to communicate on their behalf with Tewfik Pasha.

Your Lordship was informed in my telegram No. 54 of the 11th February of the acceptance by the Zeitounli Chiefs of the conditions to which the Sublime Porte had given their adhesion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 227.

Collective Telegram from Consuls to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Zeitoun, le 4 Février, 1896, 6 P.M.

TÉLÉGRAMME collectif à communiquer aux cinq Ambassadeurs.

Résumé de la réponse faite aux conditions de la Sublime Porte par les chefs de la majorité des insurgés :—

1. Ils rendront les armes de guerre à la condition qu'on leur remettra leurs fusils de chasse, poignards et pistolets qui leur ont été enlevés; qu'on enlèvera aux habitants Musulmans des villages voisins les armes de guerre: et que les Puissances garantiront leur vie et leurs biens.

2. Ils ne sont pas en état de reconstruire la caserne qui, d'ailleurs, n'a pas été détruite par eux.

3. Attendu qu'ils n'ont pris les armes que pour se défendre ils sollicitent une amnistie générale pour tous ceux qui sont compromis dans les affaires de Zeitoun.

Ils sollicitent de la bienveillance du Sultan, d'abord la nomination d'un Caïmacam Chrétien au choix et sous le contrôle des Puissances, conformément aux réformes; ensuite comme compensation aux dommages causés par les hostilités, l'exemption de l'impôt "miri" pendant quelques années et la remise des arriérés.

Nous avons communiqué cette réponse aux Délégués Ottomans qui ont déclaré n'être pas autorisés à entamer une discussion et ont télégraphié à leur Gouvernement.

Demain les chefs de la minorité qui paraissent rebelles à la conciliation, viendront nous donner leur réponse.

Inclosure 2 in No. 227.

Collective Telegram from Consuls to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Zeitoun, le 24 Janvier (5 Février), 1896, à 7 heures du soir.

EDHEM PASHA nous prie de communiquer aux Ambassadeurs qu'il se trouve à Zeitoun plus de 10,000 Chrétiens des villages environnants qui y ont cherché refuge mais n'ont pas pris part aux soulèvements.

Inclosure 3 in No. 227.

Telegram addressed to the Russian Consul at Zeitoun.

Le 25 Janvier (6 Février), 1896.

TÉLÉGRAMMES collectifs reçus.

Ils font l'objet de pourparlers avec la Porte. Pouvez-vous constater combien de réfugiés il y a à Zeitoun réellement, pourquoi Edhem vous en a parlé et ce qu'on pourrait faire pour eux en cas d'arrangement?

Edhem prétend que les Consuls lui auraient proposé de retenir les négociateurs

Zeitounlis comme otages. Qu'est-ce qui peut avoir donné lieu à cette étrange nouvelle. Dites-nous également quelle valeur pourrait avoir éventuellement l'opposition de la minorité et de qui elle se compose.

Ce télégramme pour tous les Consuls.

Inclosure 4 in No. 227.

Collective Telegram from Ambassadors to Consuls at Zeitoun.

Constantinople, le 8 Février, 1896.

CONSUL Français en mission.

Télégramme collectif des six Ambassadeurs pour les quatre Consuls en mission.

La Porte nous fait savoir qu'elle transmet à Edhem Pasha l'ordre d'accepter les conditions suivantes :—

1. Les armes de guerre seront rendues par les habitants de Zeitoun. Si des armes de même nature sont entre les mains des Musulmans de la vallée, elles leur seront retirées ; les armes de chasse, fusils vieux modèle, pistolets et poignards seront laissés à leurs détenteurs (l'autorité Ottomane nie que des armes de ce genre aient été confisquées).

2. Une amnistie générale sera accordée. Les quelques Huntchakistes étrangers seront simplement expulsés du territoire de l'Empire.

Au cas où des habitants de Zeitoun auraient eu à souffrir de crimes de droit commun, ils conserveront la faculté d'en poursuivre la réparation devant les Tribunaux ordinaires.

3. Le Sultan est disposé à dégrever le " miri " et à abandonner les arriérés d'impôts ainsi qu'à renoncer à la reconstruction de la caserne, mais ces concessions ne devront pas être une condition de l'arrangement ; elles devront être sollicitées de la bienveillance de Sa Majesté.

4. La question du Caïmacam Chrétien sera réglée conformément à l'acte général des réformes.

5. La demande de la minorité relatif à la suppression de la garnison Turque n'est pas admise.

Quant à la garantie pour la vie et les biens des Zeitounlis il n'appartient pas aux Ambassadeurs de la donner eux-mêmes, mais ils demanderont à la Porte une déclaration à ce sujet. En ce qui concerne les garanties qu'Edhem Pasha offre pour les réfugiés les Consuls devront dresser avec les Commissaires Ottomans un acte spécial pour la forme qui paraîtra offrir le plus de sécurité. Ils en surveilleront eux-mêmes l'exécution.

Ces conditions nous paraissent acceptables.

Inclosure 5 in No. 227.

Collective Telegram from Consuls to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Zeitoun, le 11 Février, 1896.

NOUS sommes heureux de vous faire savoir que tous les chefs Zeitounlis ont accepté et signé toutes les conditions du télégramme Français du 8 courant, avec remerciments à Sa Majesté le Sultan, aux Puissances Européennes, Ambassadeurs et médiateurs.

Inclosure 6 in No. 227.

Collective Telegram from Consuls to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Zeitoun, le 15 Février, 1896, *midi* 30.

RÉSUMÉ d'un projet d'acte réglant la question des villageois réfugiés à Zeitoun.

On soumettra d'abord à une visite médicale les réfugiés. Des médecins militaires traiteront les malades et les blessés dans un hôpital qui sera créé à Zeitoun. Les fonds des Municipalités supporteront ces frais.

Les réfugiés reconnus indemnes de maladie contagieuse et en état de voyager seront après dénombrement dirigés sur divers points de la manière suivante :

Ceux dont les habitations subsistent seront reconduits chez eux, leur Mudir nous enverra le récépissé attestant l'heureux arrivée des repatriés ; ceux dont les villages ont été détruits seront envoyés par groupes et par étapes à Marasch, où les autorités pourvoiront à leur logement provisoire, puis répartis entre la ville et les environs par une Commission Spéciale composée de trois Notables Chrétiens et trois Musulmans et présidée par le plus haut fonctionnaire. Dans le cas où tous les réfugiés ne pourraient trouver place dans le Mutessarifiik de Marasch une Commission semblable serait instituée à Aintab puis à Alep.

Conformément à un ordre du Grand Vizir en date du 1er Février, 1311, les finances du vilayet supporteront les frais de subsistance et de transport.

Inclosure 7 in No. 227.

Baron Saurma to Sir P. Currie.

Le 5 Février, 1896.

Mon cher Collègue,

JE viens de causer avec Tewfik Pacha au sujet de la question de Zeitoun. Il connaissait les pourparlers survenus entre les Zeitounlis et nos délégués par le télégramme d'Edhem Pasha adressé à la Porte, télégramme qui est conforme à celui que nous avons eu aujourd'hui.

La question a été déjà fait l'objet de délibérations au Conseil des Ministres lequel cependant n'aurait pu prendre aucune décision.

La matière aurait été soumis cet après-midi à Sa Majesté le Sultan qui dès demain se prononcera là-dessus.

Tewfik m'a promis de venir me voir demain avant midi aussitôt qu'il saura la décision du Sultan, chez lequel le Ministre se rendra demain de bonne heure.

Sur ma demande si le Conseil ne s'était pas déjà prononcé dans son rapport fait au Sultan sur la réponse des insurgés, Tewfik m'a dit que les Ministres se sont abstenus d'émettre une opinion précise. Seulement, *ad* 1, les Ministres auraient fait observer que les habitants Musulmans ne possédaient point d'armes de guerre, et *ad* 3, que des pourparlers au sujet d'un Caïmacam Chrétien étaient inutiles vu que ce point formaient déjà un des points arrêtés entre les trois Puissances et la Sublime Porte dans leurs récents arrangements.

Dans tous les cas, me dit Tewfik, il ne pourrait s'engager avec moi dans une discussion définitive, mais qu'il lui faudrait d'abord savoir ce que Sa Majesté le Sultan décidera demain sur la manière d'envisager la question.

Je ne manquerai pas, cher collègue, de vous communiquer demain aussitôt que possible le résultat de mon entretien avec le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

Votre tout dévoué,

(Signé) SAURMA.

Inclosure 8 in No. 227.

Baron Saurma to Sir P. Currie.

Péra, le 8 Février, 1896.

Mon cher Collègue,

TEWFIK PACHA est venu me voir ce matin et m'a dit ce qui suit :—

1. Pour les armes :

Les Zeitounlis paraissent croire qu'ils doivent rendre toutes leurs armes, mais il n'est absolument question que des armes de guerre, canons, &c. Si par hazard il y avait quelques armes de guerre entre les mains des Musulmans dans la vallée de Zeitoun elles leur seraient certainement reprises par les autorités Turques.

2. Amnestie générale :

Seulement les fauteurs du mouvement, quatre à cinq Huntchakists étrangers, seraient expulsés. Si plus tard les Zeitounlis eux-mêmes s'adressaient aux autorités Turques et demandaient la poursuite judiciaire contre certains individus (Arméniens de Zeitoun) pour crimes de droit commun (par example vol, &c.) les autorités Turques ne pourraient se refuser à obtempérer à cette demande.

3. Miri et arriérés et reconstruction de la caserne :

Le Sultan est disposé à leur faire cette concession si les Zeitounlis s'adressaient à sa

généralité et que cette demande ne forma pas soi-disant une condition formelle dans l'acte de la médiation.

4. Caïmacam Chrétien :

Ce point est réglé par l'acte des réformes entre les Puissances et la Sublime Porte. C'est un droit déjà acquis et n'a par conséquent plus rien à faire dans l'affaire actuelle.

Quant à la demande de la suppression de la garnison Turque à Zeitoun, le Conseil des Ministres n'a pas cru pouvoir en parler au Sultan puisque cette demande portait atteinte directement aux droits de sa souveraineté.

Edhem Pacha a reçu des instructions télégraphiques dans ce sens : de sorte que Tewfik Pasha est convaincu que la médiation aurait atteint son but et que toute l'affaire serait finie dans peu de temps à la satisfaction de tous.

Je pense donc qu'une réunion sera nécessaire mais je vous serais très obligé si vous ne vouliez nous convoquer pas avant 6 heures cet après-midi puisque j'ai organisé une petite partie de plaisir, aux îles, de laquelle je ne pourrais guère être de retour avant 5 heures et demie.

Votre tout dévoué,
(Signé) SAURMA.

Inclosure 9 in No. 227.

Baron Saurma to Sir P. Currie.

Péra, le 10 Février, 1896.

Mon cher Collègue,

TEWFIK PACHA a été encore chez moi pour nous rendre attentifs à quelques points de l'arrangement au sujet desquels il semblerait subsister un malentendu :

1. En ce qui concerne l'intervention éventuelle des Tribunaux Turcs pour la poursuite judiciaire des cas de crimes de droit commun. Il paraîtrait, à ce que prétend le Ministre, que ce point est ignoré par les Consuls. J'ai dit à Tewfik Pacha qu'il me semblait que notre télégramme d'avant-hier avait contenu ce point. Mais en même temps je lui ai exprimé mon opinion qu'il serait peut-être mieux d'abandonner entièrement ce genre de restriction puisqu'elle pourrait donner lieu à des inconvénients, la distinction du crime de droit commun et de crime couvert par l'amnistie étant subtile et difficile à établir. Avec un peu de bonne volonté on pourrait trouver des crimes de droit commun chez tous les Arméniens de Zeitoun ayant guerroyé contre les Turcs et vice versa, chez tous les Turcs ayant combattu les Arméniens. Mieux vaudrait borner les poursuites judiciaires aux cas qui se présenteraient *après la date* de la conclusion de l'arrangement actuel. Tewfik était de mon avis et court au Conseil des Ministres pour y faire valoir ce point de vue, lequel, je suppose, est aussi le vôtre.

Ensuite Tewfik me dit qu'il pourrait y avoir encore une erreur par rapport à la concession de la remise d'impôts.

Le Conseil des Ministres a voulu dire "remise des arriérés" et "délai pour le paiement des impôts futurs (pour quelques années) le tout, ainsi que la reconstruction de la caserne, laissé à la générosité de Sa Majesté le Sultan, mais n'a pas parlé de la "réduction" des impôts. Ce dernier terme semblerait avoir été employé par erreur de la part des Consuls médiateurs.

Tewfik Pacha promet de nous donner sans retard la réponse dont il s'agit.

Votre tout dévoué,
(Signé) SAURMA.

No. 228.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 145.)

Constantinople, February 19, 1896.

My Lord,

ON receipt of various reports from Mr. Longworth on the subject of the trial by court-martial of Armenian Notables at Trebizond, I caused representations to be made unofficially to the Minister for Foreign Affairs protesting against the injustice of the sentences passed, and urging that they should be remitted or modified. I also pressed for the removal of Salih Pasha, President of the Court-martial, who was reported to me as having shown gross partiality and incapacity in the administration of justice.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has now communicated to me a Teskéré, which he has received from the Grand Vizier, informing him that the sentences alluded to had already been sent to the Minister of War for revision by the court-martial sitting at the Seraskerate; that sentence had been passed on seven Armenians, viz., the priest Kothian, Vahan, Armenak, Hachik, Missiak, Setrak, and Mihirbad, but that only two of them had been found to be in conformity with the law, and that all the other sentences had been referred back to Trebizond for more complete investigation and revision. Amongst these is probably that of Mardiros Arabian, whose case forms the subject of my despatch No. 132 of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 229.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 24, 1896, 2·15 P.M.*

I HAVE telegraphed to Vice-Consul Catoni at Aleppo to-day as follows :—

"Russian Ambassador has received a telegram from his Consul at Aintab, reporting that the state of affairs there is alarming.

M. de Nélidow has instructed him, in reply, to urge necessity of taking measures for the protection of Christians. Similar instructions have been sent to the other Consuls, and I have to instruct you to communicate with your Russian colleague and strongly support his representations."

No. 230.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 24, 1896, 8·10 P.M.*

THE Sultan granted the Russian Ambassador an audience to-day, and in answer to M. de Nélidow's representations as to the urgency of reforms in Anatolia and Macedonia, His Majesty replied that his attention was unceasingly occupied by these questions.

No. 231.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord, *Batoum, January 22, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 60 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that during my recent stay at the Caucasian capital, I made careful inquiries from various sources in respect to the accuracy of the report that was current here that a concentration of Russian troops, in the direction of Kars, was taking place. The results tend to show that no such movement is, at any rate for the present, in contemplation, and that the rumour originated from the fact that the usual proportion of recruits were being moved down from the main line of railway towards Alexandropol and Kars for the purpose of filling up the gaps, made during the autumn, in the rank and file of the various regiments stationed in those districts, by the return to their homes in Russia, of the annual number of time-expired men; and as an idea had gained ground that there was an intention of largely increasing the forces stationed in the vicinity of the Turkish frontier, the marching down of these recruits through the country was magnified into a concentrating movement of troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. STEVENS.

No. 232.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 3.) *Batoum, January 23, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, from information procured during my recent visit to Tiflis, it would appear that a considerable amount of indignation at present exists among the Armenians of the Caucasus in consequence of the treatment they are receiving at the hands of the Russian Government, owing to which, their position is daily becoming more irksome.

It suffices that a person of Armenian extraction should be, in the least degree, suspected of active sympathy with the movement of his co-religionists in Asia Minor for the wrath of the authorities to be at once aroused, and bring with it the prompt arrest of the individual. I was informed, on reliable authority, that in this manner many leading members of the Armenian communities of Tiflis, Baku, Erivan, and other Armenian centres of the Caucasus, have found their way into the prisons of the country, and are likely to be detained in these cold quarters for an indefinite period, pending a prolonged and searching inquiry into their antecedents, &c.

I was assured that a short time ago a sum of 2,000 roubles, that had been collected among the Armenians of the Caucasus, was forwarded, by the Armenian Patriarch at Etchmiadzin, to the Russian Consul-General at Erzeroum, with the request that it might be distributed amongst those Armenian inhabitants of that city who had suffered most severely during the recent massacres, and were therefore in need of immediate relief, but that this sum of money was promptly returned to his Eminence by the officer in question, with a categorical refusal to comply with the request.

In addition to the above-mentioned grievances, Armenians inhabiting the Caucasus labour under several other disadvantages and disabilities as compared with their Russian-born fellow-countrymen, the system of oppression making itself felt in more ways than one. For instance, although they pay the same taxes and are obliged to serve in the army, yet, with only one exception, namely, in the case of appointments to subordinate posts, from which they cannot receive promotion, in offices dependent on the Ministry of Justice; they are precluded from entering the various branches of the Civil Service, from receiving employment on State Railways, in banks, and other such like institutions under the control of the Government. It should, however, be borne in mind, that in case they proceed permanently to Russia Proper, these restrictions do not apply, and they are eligible for most of the Government appointments, and enjoy the privileges and immunities of other Russian subjects.

Out of the number of 140 Armenian parish schools existing in the Caucasus, which have hitherto been maintained by voluntary contributions obtained exclusively from the well-to-do Armenians of this country, the Government are about to close 100, having intimated that if the Armenians desire that these educational establishments should continue to exist, the sums that have been collected towards their maintenance will have to be handed to the Russian authorities, who will in future take over the administration of the schools, otherwise they will be closed, and the buildings, which have been constructed out of funds raised among Armenians, will become the property of the State. In the remaining forty schools, the language to be used for the purpose of instruction is to be Russian, and all the Armenian schoolmasters are to be replaced by Russians. It is calculated that this measure alone will put nearly 1,000 educated Armenians out of employ, for whom a livelihood of some sort will have to be provided by the Armenian community, as these schoolmasters will not be able to obtain employment in Russian State institutions of any kind, educational or otherwise.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. STEVENS.

No. 233.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 78.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 25, 1896, 4·50 P.M.*

MR. CUMBERBATCH telegraphs to-day from Erzeroum that he has heard from a trustworthy source that Zekki Pasha is opposed to action against the Kurds, and is the cause of the delay in the trial of the three Chiefs (mentioned in his despatches Nos. 306 and 317 of last year). The Governor-General and Shakir Pasha urgently demanded this trial.

No. 234.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 20.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 25, 1896.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith an extract from a despatch addressed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 26th ultimo* relative to the danger which exists of incursions of Kurds or Armenian revolutionists from Persia into the Van Vilayet.

I request that you will urge the Persian Government to adopt such measures as may be in their power for preventing armed incursions across the frontier into Turkish territory, and to co-operate on their side in any measures taken by the Turkish authorities to keep the Kurds under proper control.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 235.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 79.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 26, 1896, 5·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 41 of 24th February respecting the Jeddah outrage, the Sultan has to-day issued an Iradé for the payment of the indemnities demanded.

No. 236.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February 27, 1896, 11·25 A.M.*

I RECEIVED the following telegram last night from Mr. Christmann, who is temporarily acting as British Consul at Mersina:—

"On Sunday troubles occurred at Adana. Authorities have succeeded in establishing order, but two Christians were killed and several wounded. Although the authorities evidently do their best it is feared that they will be unable to keep order. Gathering of Turkish population continues in the streets with threatening behaviour.

"It is reported to-day that panic continues, but order is maintained."

* Inclosure in No. 224.

No. 237.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Pera, February 21, 1896.*

ON the 25th ultimo the Armenian Bishop of Aleppo addressed a letter, of which a copy is inclosed, to Her Majesty's Consul, giving the names of twenty-five Armenian Notables of Aintab, who had been arrested after the massacre at that place and sent to Aleppo for trial. The Bishop stated that these men had committed no offence, except that of escaping from the massacre to which so many of their countrymen had fallen victims, and he implored the assistance of Her Majesty's Government to save them from the fate which threatened them.

On receiving from Mr. Catoni, who is in charge of the Aleppo Consulate during Mr. Barnham's absence at Zeitoun, a copy of this letter, I instructed him by telegraph to inquire into the truth of the statements made in it.

On the 4th February Mr. Catoni reported that he had ascertained that the Armenians in question were imprisoned in connection with the Aintab massacre, during which they had defended their lives and property against their Mussulman assailants; that they were to be tried criminally and that unless the Embassies intervened in their favour they would probably be condemned to death or imprisonment for life.

I brought the matter to the notice of my colleagues, and asked them to instruct their Consuls to join with Mr. Catoni in making representations to the Vali of Aleppo on behalf of the prisoners.

They promised to do so, and I instructed Mr. Catoni to inform the other Consuls of what had passed, and to take such action as he could in the matter.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram from him reporting on the subject.

The Italian Ambassador has recently communicated to me a telegram from his acting Consul, giving a less favourable report of the Vali's attitude than Mr. Catoni's, and I have instructed Mr. Block to make strong remonstrances at the Porte against the condemnation of men who are guiltless of any crime, save that of defending themselves against assassins, while the perpetrators of the massacres are left wholly unpunished.

I propose, as soon as I learn the result of this step, to ask my colleagues to instruct their Dragomans to make a similar communication to the Porte.

It is a monstrous aggravation of the wholesale murders which have been perpetrated throughout Asia Minor, that any well-to-do Armenians who have not fallen victims are thrown into prison and accused of having attacked the Mussulmans.

The object evidently is to strip them of such property as they have left, while their poorer countrymen are driven by terror to declare themselves converts to Islam.

The communication from the Sultan which I reported in my telegram No. 57 of the 14th instant, shows that His Majesty connives at these iniquitous proceedings, and leaves no doubt that if he did not actually order the massacres, he approved and encouraged them and that he still does nothing to save his Armenian subjects from destruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

The Bishop of Aleppo to Vice-Consul Catoni.

Alep, le 25 Janvier, 1896.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de vous exposer que les autorités locales viennent d'commencer par la force, et jeter dans la prison de cette ville, les sieurs Artin et Garabed Nazaretian, Toros et Kevork Leilekian, Dr. Skender Kissak Arshanian, Moyses Hakimian, Kevork et Moyses Chanyan, Agop, Babik et Moyses Balikian, Anton Gabrielian, Artin Bochguézenian, Sarkis Betchakdjian, Avedis Hassirdjian, Garabed Eghiagan, Garabed Barsamian, Vanes Djchedjian, Agop Kallachian, Benjamin Antonian, Krikor Cabakian, Agop Arakelian, et deux autres dont j'ignore les noms.

Ces vingt-cinq Notables de notre communauté d'Aintab vont être traduits devant la Cour d'Assises où privés de défenses sous d'ignobles et fausses inculpations, et

moyennant de faux témoins, le Gouvernement Turc doit les condamner rien que parce qu'ils ont échappé à là mort dont ont été victimes leurs autres frères dans les massacres qui ont ensanglanté Aintab.

En venant faire un appel chaleureux à la généreuse nation dont vous êtes le digne représentant, M. le Consul, je ne doute pas que, dès qu'il sera averti, votre honorable Gouvernement arrêtera immédiatement au nom de l'humanité, du droit des gens et de la justice sociale, l'accomplissement d'une pareille procédure inique, surtout après les cruautés commises sur notre communauté dans toute l'étendue de l'Anatolie et surtout à deux pas de cette ville à Orfa et à Aintab, où les Arméniens ont été lâchement massacrés, leurs femmes déshonorées, et leurs sœurs enlevées, leurs biens pillés et leurs propriétés incendiées.

Devant ces abominations infligées impunément à notre communauté, votre généreux cœur, M. le Consul, et la grande âme de votre Gouvernement n'hésiteront pas de sauver au moins les vingt-cinq innocents dont la condamnation enhardira sûrement les autorités Turques à sévir de la sorte contre tous les Arméniens qu'elles n'ont pas pu atteindre par le fer et par le feu.

En vous anticipant à vous et à votre honorable Gouvernement l'expression de ma plus vive gratitude et l'éternelle reconnaissance de toute une race Chrétienne que le Gouvernement Turc annihile, j'ai l'honneur, &c.

L'Évêque de la communauté Arménienne de la paroisse d'Alep,
(Signé) BEDROS VARTABED NERGARDRIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Telegraphic.) *Aleppo, February 5, 1896.*

IT appears from the investigation I made, that the Armenians mentioned in the Bishop's letter were really connected with the last massacres at Aintab in defending their lives and fortunes against their Mahommedan assailants.

It is said that they will soon be tried criminally. They are now kept in prison here.

I am almost certain that these unfortunate men will be condemned to death, or imprisonment for life, if the Embassies do not intervene on their behalf.

No. 238.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, respecting the return of depredations committed in the Karahissar district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 238.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, February 8, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to annex herewith a Return of Armenians killed, houses and churches destroyed in the north-eastern portion of the Sivas Vilayet.

The particulars tabulated are from a Report furnished by M. Odabashian, a prominent Armenian merchant of Karahissar, to the Anglo-American Relief Committee at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

DEPREDATIONS committed on Armenians in Karahissar-Sharki District of the Sivas Vilayet.

No.	Name of Town or Village	Houses.		Churches.		Number killed.	Remarks.
		Looted.	Destroyed.	Looted.	Destroyed.		
1	Tamzara (Nuhić) ..	300	..	4	..	250	Two priests.
2	Demirdjilik ..	10	..	1	..	18	Not one male left.
3	Ltarij	20	..	..	..	2	Half became Moslems.
4	Tehrauk	80	..	1	..	38	Five times attacked. One priest killed.
5	Isheri	50	..	..	1	22	Thirteen women and one priest killed.
6	Anergi	80	..	..	..	69	
7	Bouseid	80	..	..	..	60	One priest killed.
8	Chouben	10	..	..	..	4	
9	Aghvanis	8	..	1	..	22	One priest killed.
10	Tumbul	20	..	..	..	16	Mixed village.
11	Akseverdi	60	..	..	..	..	Local Bey prevented bloodshed.
12	Abana	80	..	..	1	8	Majority took refuge in town.
13	Sevindik	60	..	..	1	16	Houses burnt belonged to merchants.
14	Chorik	8	8	..	..	..	Villagers escaped to Azbeder.
15	Kiraj	20	..	..	..	..	People escaped to the hills.
16	Higher Azbeder ..	300	..	..	1	40	Rich convent robbed and burnt.
17	Lower Azbeder ..	300	..	1	1	43	
18	Alamanig	80	..	..	1	20	
19	Chivlig	10	..	..	..	..	
20	Aghravis	80	..	..	1	40	Paid £T. 50 to be spared.
21	Kertanos	80	..	..	1	..	
22	Komeldoun ..	60	..	..	1	22	
23	Meshagnots ..	100	..	..	1	60	Resisted until troops attacked.
24	Pourk	180	100	..	2	128	
25	Yinikeny	30	..	..	..	10	One priest killed. Some men burnt alive.
26	Andreas (Enderes) ..	110	60	..	1	60	
27	Sis	100	..	1	1	40	Convent burnt.
28	Khurdesk	10	..	..	..	4	
29	Koylchissar ..	14	..	..	..	..	Eighty-nine became Moslems.
30	Hamidié	18	..	..	..	1	
31	Gemin Bel	6	..	..	..	..	
32	Karahissar	80	..	1	..	41	750 families held out twenty-two days.
	Total ..	2,444	168	10	14	1,034	

No. 239.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 150.)

Constantinople, February 24, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond on the Armenian question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 239.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, February* 8, 1896.

IT is now exactly four months ago that the Armenians at Trebizond experienced the horrors of a massacre.

The male adults, wherever found, were on that occasion ruthlessly slaughtered by armed bands of Turks and squads of Imperial troops.

Disarmed in time, and taken unaware, they yielded up life and property with scarcely a struggle, and with piteous submission. Heroic acts and chivalrous deeds, however, were not altogether wanting, but they were mere episodes which relieved the otherwise monotonous accounts of the attack, characterized on the one side by impotence, and on the other by ferocity.

This destruction at Trebizond of many quiet inoffensive and defenceless people makes, unfortunately, only the first of a series in Asiatic Turkey which have since shocked the whole civilized world. A tabular estimate of losses to life was given in my despatch of yesterday, wherein the registered Armenians of the town reported killed number 298, a figure which would be double, perhaps, were it possible to include the missing among the floating population, counted as were the corpses buried during daylight to more than 400.

Without repeating what has already been stated in my former Reports, permit me here to submit a few general remarks on what were apparently the causes of these disturbances. Those who studied the events locally, and on facts known to the public, cannot but be convinced that the Government of the country is entirely to blame. The disorders, which were more political than fanatical, may perhaps be understood best by reviewing the past.

Ever since the Crimean war the Armenians as a people became more distinct, raising themselves morally and materially far above the Moslems by acquiring knowledge, and by engaging in mercantile pursuits.

As they grew in prosperity teachers from the Caucasus taught them history, and missionaries from America taught them self-respect. The upshot has been a yearning for national liberty, to which, however, no vent was given until the Russo-Turkish war. The disintegration of the Ottoman Empire was then thought imminent, and the realization of their hopes and wishes possible.

The grievances formulated by them against the Government differed but little from those of the other non-Moslem "rayah"—a word meaning "flock," the individuals of which were too often fleeced and slaughtered. Hence the clause in the Berlin Treaty providing the introduction of reforms in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians. The question thus introduced in 1878 gained importance, and, assuming prominence in 1890, reached an acute stage in 1895.

Divers influences, external as well as internal, must have been at work to produce the present lamentable situation. Turkey, it would seem, had for some time back viewed with mistrust the intentions of England in regard to Armenia. She may have possibly been so inspired by two of the Powers whose interests accord little with the Cyprus Convention and the Egyptian occupation.

Thwarted or not, however, the Representatives of Her Majesty did their utmost within the bounds of possibility, although their humane exertions failed to secure any durable and efficient reforms. The Sultan, who, from motives of self-preservation, aimed at governing the Empire single-handed, adopted a vacillating policy, which was unfortunately oftentimes more cruel than kind to his Armenian subjects. The Ministers, weak, if not corrupt, submitted to the dictates of the Palace and ignored the frequent complaints of the less militant and numerically inferior section of the population. The provincial officials were thus not long in discovering that they could pursue a lucrative course of oppression with impunity.

What were at first exceptions became the rule, and the Armenians, finding their condition intolerable, became more and more restless only to suffer the more.

Secret Societies sprang up as the consequence of the disaffection, the first of which was started at Tiflis in 1880. Emissaries were dispatched to incite the people, and agents were named to report every case of outrage. Revolutionary newspapers were put into circulation, especially the "Henchag," edited by Nazarbeg, issued once in Athens and now in London. Inflammatory placards were posted up from time to time in the different centres since 1892, and arms were introduced surreptitiously in no small number across the Russo-Turkish frontier.

The lot of the Armenians in the last state became worse than in the first from the action of the revolutionists. The wealthy were blackmailed and the informers were killed in the cause of patriotism, while many of the law-abiding were persecuted by the Government for conniving at a revolt.

The Sasun massacre brought affairs to a head. A scheme of reforms was urged upon the Sultan by England, France, and Russia. The pressure exercised, it would seem, was found distasteful and a diabolical plan of doing away with the question by getting rid of the people was apparently entertained. Much as it may be denied, it is scarcely credible that no orders were issued from the Palace to massacre the adult males of the Armenian population, leaving to the women and children the alternative between Islamism and destitution.

The Mahommedan masses were encouraged to do the work by the participation in it of the troops, which rendered the carnage greater. Were it not, indeed, for the soldiers, the loss of life at Trebizond would have been insignificant, as a very large majority of the Turks hesitated to turn against their neighbours. Kept as they are in absolute ignorance of what occurs in the East as well as in the West, they were worked up to a sufficient pitch of frenzy to kill and plunder by being made to believe what was not true. A report was sedulously spread amongst them, if not by officials, by the omnipresent spies of the Palace, that under the encouragement of Great Britain the Armenians were in a state of latent revolt, ready by a sudden assault to reduce the number of Moslems, and by thus becoming the dominant race to establish a kingdom of their own.

They now know better, and blame the Sultan almost openly for having, by issuing such orders, ruined the whole country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 240.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora, transmitting translation of an article from the "Angora Gazette," respecting the Relief Fund Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, February 18, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith inclosed a translation of an article which appeared in a recent issue of the local Turkish newspaper concerning the Commissions which it would appear are now being formed throughout the Empire for the purpose of collecting and subsequently distributing funds for the relief of those of the Sultan's subjects, whether Mussulman or non-Mussulman, who have suffered loss or privation in the late troubles, as well as for the repairing and even rebuilding of mosques which have been burnt or otherwise destroyed.

I need hardly call your Excellency's attention to the significant fact that whereas one section of these Commissions, viz., that which is under the presidency of the Mufti, will be entirely and exclusively occupied with the work of collecting funds for the "repairing and rebuilding of mosques," the other will devote its time and attention to the general duty of relieving all those who have suffered during the late troubles, whether Mahommedan or Christian.

There is no question whatever of repairing or rebuilding churches, for although at the beginning of the article the term "ma'abed" (places of worship) is employed without any qualifying adjective, yet on every subsequent occasion when this matter is referred

to, it is distinctly stated that Mahommedan places of worship are to be repaired, no mention whatever being made of churches.

As regards the constitution of the Commission which has been formed here, four members only are Christians, two being Armenian Catholics and two Greeks, while no representative of the Armenian (Gregorian) community appears on the list. Considering that it is the members of this sect who have been almost the only victims during the late "troubles," such an omission on the part of the authorities may fairly be characterized as monstrous.

I shall not fail to keep your Excellency informed as to the doings of this Commission, supposing there be any practical outcome of this movement, which is not very probable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Extract from the "Angora Gazette" of January 29 (o. s.), 1896.

(Translation.)

Relief Fund Commissions.—With the sublime object of providing for the wants and relieving the distress of those subjects of the Empire, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, who have suffered during the recent troubles in certain vilayets of Anatolia, and for the purpose of repairing, and, if necessary, rebuilding, the places of worship that have been destroyed, a Commission has been formed under the august presidency of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and the vice-presidency of his Excellency Ismail Hakki Pasha, Vice-President of the Military Commission of Inspection, the members thereof being drawn from among the functionaries of various State Departments.

The Commission in question will be composed of two sections, one of which will be charged with the duty of rendering assistance to those subjects of the Empire who have suffered, while the other will be intrusted with the work of repairing and rebuilding such of the mosques as have been burnt or otherwise destroyed.

Tickets will be issued, the printing expenses being defrayed by the Ministry of Finance, for sums of ½ of a medjidié, ½ and 1 medjidié, ¼ of a lira, ½ and 1 lira each respectively.

The Commission will sit four times a-week, two of its sittings being devoted to the collection of a general relief fund, while the other two will be occupied with the consideration of matters which concern the repairing and rebuilding of mosques.

The same method will be adopted in the vilayets, where the Commission for the repairing of mosques will be composed of the local Ulemas and Sheikhs and the functionaries of the "Evcaf" (pious foundations), while the general relief section will be presided over by the provincial Governors-General, its members being appointed by the local Municipalities. Moreover, as was previously done by the Commission appointed for the relief of the sufferers from the recent earthquake, so in this case also special medals will be struck by the Commission to be bestowed on all persons contributing a sum of £ T. 10 and upwards.

The Vice-President of the High Commission, in consultation with the Valis, will be empowered to order the construction of wooden shelters for those who are wandering about without a roof to cover them, while the latter (the Valis) will take the necessary steps for their being thus temporarily housed, without neglecting other details.

The Imperial Iradé authorizing the above has been communicated to the authorities here by the Sublime Porte, whereupon two Commissions have already been formed, one under the presidency of his Excellency the Vali, charged with the collection and administration of the General Relief Fund, while the other, whose duty it is to superintend the repairing and rebuilding of mosques, will be presided over by the Mufti.

Orders have been issued by his Excellency the Vali to the district authorities, directing them to act on the same lines, viz., to form in their respective localities two Commissions similar to those above described.

Seeing that the people of our vilayet have at all times given practical proof of their generosity and charitable sentiments and their zeal in matters of public welfare, they will, we feel convinced, on this occasion also, as in the past, far surpass the inhabitants of other localities in contributing liberally towards the repairing and rebuilding of

mosques, so important and indispensable for the fulfilment of the religious duties of our fellow-countrymen and fellow-men.

The names of subscribers, and the amount collected, will be published in our paper.

(A list of the members of the two sections of the Commission follows.)

No. 241.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 1, 1896, 10·50 A.M.*

I HAVE received a telegram from Acting Consul Richards at Angora reporting that on the 27th ultimo there was a disturbance at Kirchehir, in the Vilayet of Angora.

Three Armenians were wounded and four killed, according to the official account.

No. 242.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 1, 1896, 11 A.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Vice-Consul Hampson at Moush:—

"I learn that Armenian prisoners in Bitlis have been released.

"Some Kurds of Chabakchur, in the Sandjak of Gundj, have massacred fifteen Armenian families of that district who had been forcibly converted to Islam and had now reverted to Christianity owing to orders from Constantinople. Considerable excitement prevails here."

No. 243.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 1, 1896, 10·30 A.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush:—

"Three Armenians of this neighbourhood who fled to Russia five years ago, and were accused of sedition, have been arrested.

"They have lately returned, thinking they were included in the amnesty of last July.

"It is feared that others may be arrested on old charges, as Government is showing great activity in searching for revolutionists."

No. 244.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 26, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 127 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, as to the reported action of the Government with regard to the Druses of the Hauran. I am causing inquiries to be made at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, February 8, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report further, for your Excellency's information, that a considerable number of Druse prisoners, variously estimated from 200 to 300, were brought into town to-day in triumphal procession from Suedah amid the jeers and execrations of the populace. The latter indulged in stone-throwing to such an extent that several of the escort were badly hurt.

I myself saw the entry and could not count more than 150 Druses, mostly old men, but the authorities say there were more than 300.

Among the prisoners are thirteen members of the Atrash family, Sheik Shibly-el-Atrash and seven other Sheikhs having been conveyed hither as prisoners a few day ago. I understand that orders have arrived from Constantinople to send into exile to places not specified twenty-five of the principal Druse families of the Hauran, and as a family may consist of 200 persons, this would mean that some 3,000 or 4,000 are to suffer this penalty. The Government is, in my humble opinion, acting harshly and unwisely in thus punishing those who submitted, for I believe that very few of those who took up arms against the troops are among the prisoners. But Sheikh Shibly is a very sly and cunning individual, and it appears to me that he tried to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. He neither threw in his lot heart and soul with the Druses, nor was he true to the Government.

The policy of the Government at any rate is not calculated to induce those Druses, who still hold out in impregnable positions, to surrender, and the total pacification of the district will be a long business, if it be ever effected.

The military authorities are, however, so far satisfied with what has been achieved that they have sent back three battalions of Albanian Redifs and are about to disband seven Redif battalions of the 5th Army Corps.

I learn on most excellent authority that the battalions stationed in the Mount Hermon district maltreated the inhabitants shamefully, and that there is scarcely a Druse woman or girl who has not been violated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 245.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Pera, February 26, 1896.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 143 of the 19th February, I have the honour to state that, in accordance with my instructions, Mr. Block has twice in the last week represented to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the necessity of appointing Zihni Pasha to be President of the Commission of Control.

He reminded Tewfik Pasha of the numerous assurances given on this point by the Porte, as well as of the promises made by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan personally and through his First Secretary. He also recalled to his Excellency's memory the fact that Her Majesty's Government had protested against the nomination of Shefik Bey as President.

Tewfik Pasha promised, in reply, to do all in his power to meet our wishes.

On the 23rd instant Mr. Block spoke in the same sense to the Sultan's First Secretary who submitted the matter to His Imperial Majesty.

Mr. Block has called repeatedly at the department of the Commission of Control, but has never found them sitting, since his visit of the 6th February, reported to your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch.

Everything seems to have remained at a standstill. Shakir Pasha's Christian Muavin is not yet appointed, nor have the Christian Muavins of the Valis left for their posts.

I am not aware of any reforms having been carried out as yet, in spite of the reiterated promises of the Sultan.

The French Dragoman has supported Mr. Block's representations and shows readiness to attend the Commission whenever there is an opportunity for doing so. The Russian Dragoman, on the other hand, appears unwilling to make any serious efforts to bring the Commission into practical working order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 246.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Pera, February* 26, 1896.

ON the 22nd February the Russian Consul telegraphed to the Russian Ambassador respecting the alarming state of affairs at Aintab, and I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the telegram sent in reply by M. de Nélidoff, which his Excellency communicated to me and to my colleagues.

I telegraphed on the 24th instant to Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Aleppo, instructing him to communicate with his Russian colleague and strongly support his representations as to the necessity for taking measures for the protection of the Christians and the re-establishment of order. Similar instructions were sent to the other Consuls by their respective Ambassadors.

I have now the honour to transmit copy of the reply which I have received from Mr. Catoni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 246.

M. de Nélidow to the Russian Consul at Aleppo.

(Télégraphique.) *Le* 10 (22) *Février*, 1896.

REÇU votre télégramme d'Aintab.

Faites au Gouverneur-Général des représentations énergiques au sujet de la nécessité de prendre des mesures pour garantir le sort des Chrétiens et l'ordre dans les localités dont vous avez eu l'occasion de constater personnellement la pénible situation. Exposez-lui les agissements du Caïmacam d'Aintab au sujet duquel des représentations seront également faites à la Porte.

Inclosure 2 in No. 246.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Telegraphic.) *Aleppo, February* 25, 1896.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to state that I have to-day informed the Russian Consul that I am ready to support his representations respecting the state of affairs at Aintab. I had already made representations on the matter to the Vali, and his Excellency had promised to summon the authorities there accordingly.

The French, Italian, and Austrian Consuls have been instructed to distribute money amongst the sufferers of Zeitoun.

Mr. Fitzmaurice left to-day.

No. 247.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout concerning the disbandment of Redifs in the Haiffa district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, February* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received information of the disbandment of the Redifs stationed at Haiffa, Nazareth, Tiberias, and Safed who have been sent to Sidon, the port at which they were originally enrolled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 248.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Pera, February* 27, 1896.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 41 of the 24th February, I asked my French and Russian colleagues if they were prepared to join with me in pressing the Porte for the prompt settlement of the demands made by the three Governments on account of the attack on the Consuls at Jeddah.

They both expressed their readiness to do so, and it was agreed that we should call yesterday at the Porte while the Council of Ministers, which meets every Wednesday, was sitting, and should make an identical communication to the Foreign Minister and request him to lay it at once before the Council. This communication would be to the effect: first, that we demanded on behalf of our Governments the immediate payment of the indemnities; second, that we claimed the fulfilment of the solemn promise given by the Imperial Government that the culprits should be brought to justice.

In case it was found impossible to capture them at once we should propose that the Governor-General should call at the three Consulates and formally express regret for the outrages and for his inability to inflict punishment on the assassins. M. de Nélidow wrote to me yesterday morning that he was prevented by indisposition from keeping his engagement, but he inclosed, for my information, a copy of a note which he was sending by his Dragoman to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On my calling upon Tewfik Pasha, he informed me that an Iradé had just been received from the Sultan directing that the indemnities claimed by the three Governments should be paid. His Excellency was unable to state when we should receive the money, but promised to use his best endeavours to have the payment made without delay. He also undertook to submit to the Council of Ministers our proposals as to the regret to be personally expressed by the Governor-General to the Consuls.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 248.

M. de Nélidow to Tewfik Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Le* 14 (26) *Février*, 1896.

JE voulais venir moi-même vous trouver aujourd'hui à la Porte, mais comme l'état de ma santé ne me permet pas encore d'affronter ce mauvais temps, je crois devoir vous exposer par écrit l'affaire dont je voulais vous entretenir d'urgence.

Il s'agit du réglement de l'affaire de Djeddah. Il y a neuf mois que trois Consuls étrangers y ont été attaqués, blessés ou tués à deux pas de la ville; on connaît les assassins et leurs protecteurs; mais aucun d'eux n'a été ni puni ni même arrêté et aucune disposition n'a été prise jusqu'à présent pour payer aux victimes les indemnités qui leur sont dues. Et en attendant le Hadj recommence, les Européens voient avec inquiétude l'impunité des pillards des environs de Djeddah, et la sécurité des pèlerins eux-mêmes se trouve être fort peu assurée dans ces conditions.

Comme nous avons justement quelques bâtiments de guerre qui vont passer par la Mer Rouge pour se rendre dans l'Extrême-Orient, ils reçoivent l'ordre de s'arrêter devant Djeddah. Mais il est urgent, dans l'intérêt de la Porte elle-même, que des mesures soient prises *sans retard* pour mettre un terme à cette situation tendue et anormale.

C'est de tout cela que je voulais entretenir votre Excellence aujourd'hui, dans l'espoir que, réunie en Conseil à ses collègues, elle voudra bien séance tenante faire donner les ordres nécessaires, tant pour le payement *immédiat* de l'indemnité, que nous avons réclamée pour M. Brandt, que pour la satisfaction à donner à notre Consulat à Djeddah. Sous ce dernier rapport, puisque les autorités locales sont impuissantes à faire arrêter les coupables, que le Gouverneur-Général vienne *lui-même* en faire l'aveu à notre Consulat et lui présenter des excuses pour l'attaque dont le Gérant précédent a été victime.

Dans l'espoir que votre Excellence partagera l'avis exprimé plus haut sur *l'urgence* d'un *prompt* réglement de cette affaire pour prévenir et éviter de plus graves complications et difficultés, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) NÉLIDOW.

No. 249.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 159. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 27, 1896.

M. MOSDITCHIAN, Secretary of Mgr. Ismirlian, called upon me this morning and stated that His Beatitude had received an informal communication to the effect that the Sultan would insist upon his either resigning the Patriarchate or writing a letter of submission, acknowledging the guilt of the Armenians, and extolling the benevolence of His Majesty.

The Secretary added that M. de Nélidoff had recently spoken to him on the same subject, and had recommended that the Patriarch should resign.

M. de Nélidoff could not, he said, undertake that the Sultan would, in consequence, show favour to the Armenians, but he was quite sure that as long as the Patriarch retained his office they would be treated with severity. He suggested that his Beatitude might, in tendering his resignation, stipulate for the more merciful treatment of his people. The Secretary added that these communications had placed the Patriarch in a position of great difficulty. He feared that the sufferings of the Armenians might be increased by his resignation or by his refusal to resign, and he appealed to me for advice as to which alternative he should choose.

I suggested that he might take advantage of the Russian Ambassador's remarks to throw on the Russian Government the responsibility for the course he should follow. He might inform M. de Nélidoff that his only object was to promote the welfare of the Armenians: that to insure that object he should be quite ready to resign; but that he must have some reliable guarantee that their interests would really be furthered by his retirement; that he could not trust the Sultan's assurances, but that if M. de Nélidoff could obtain for him satisfactory guarantees for the security of the life and property of

the Armenian people he would be ready to place his resignation in his Excellency's hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 250.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 84.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 2, 1896, 10·30 P.M.

MR. BARNHAM sent the following telegram from Aleppo yesterday:—

"Sixteen Zeitounlis arrived at Albistan on 29th February, escorted by a zaptieh, to buy corn.

"While they were in the market a quarrel took place, and the Mussulmans attacked the Zeitounlis, killing nine and stealing their mules.

"In consequence of this disturbance severe orders have been sent, but I think that an immediate examination should be made of the guilty parties, and that the Governor, who is an old man, should be changed at once."

No. 251.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury. – (*Received March* 4.)

(No. 87.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 4, 1896, *noon.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 73 of 23rd February, I have been informed by Mr. Fitzmaurice at Biredjik that after the massacre which took place there on 1st January, and during which 150 Christians were killed, Islam was embraced by all the survivors, numbering 1,500.

Official recognition has not yet been accorded to these conversions; they were made under the influence of terror, but the converts fear under the present circumstances to say so openly, and though they secretly assured Mr. Fitzmaurice that they would return to Christianity if steps were taken for punishment of ringleaders, yet when before the Turkish Commissioners they professed their intention to remain Mussulman.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Fitzmaurice, inquiring what measures he considers would insure their safety, and meanwhile I have conveyed privately the substance of his Report to the Palace, and have urged that the authorities should communicate with me before taking any decision in regard to the conversions.

No. 252.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 5.)

Sir, *Downing Street, March* 4, 1896.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th February relating to the suggestion made by the Rev. R. Chambers for the establishment of an Armenian Colony in Canada, and I am to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that a copy of your letter, with its inclosure, has been sent to the Governor-General for the consideration of his Ministers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 253.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 5, 1896, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 87 of 4th March, I have received the following from Mr. Fitzmaurice :—

"Following is a summary of the inquiry I and Turkish Commissioners have made as regards affairs at Biredjik :—

"On the day of massacre, 1st January (N. S.), about 1,500 Gregorian, Catholic, and Protestant Armenians became Mussulman to save their own lives.

"Not a single Christian is left. Conversions have not as yet been officially recognized by the Turkish Government.

"They have secretly assured me that if existing reign of terror were removed by severe punishment of ringleaders of massacres they would declare themselves Christians, but, as things are at present, it is impossible for them to openly declare their real sentiments to us, and they officially announce their intention to remain Mussulman.

"To revert to Christianity at present would mean almost certain death, and I had better do nothing here now in that direction.

"Turkish colleagues agree as to reason for change of religion.

"It is essential for the present that the Turkish authorities should not be made cognizant of the above secret assurances. Authorities here acknowledge that Armenians gave no provocation to massacre, and that no sedition existed among them, the Mussulmans of town being reponsible for disturbances.

"May I spend some 30*l.* from the Relief Fund, as the misery of Armenians here is appalling. The money might be remitted to Catoni for my account.

"I propose proceeding at once to Ourfa, unless instructed to the contrary."

No. 254.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 6, 1896, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 88 of yesterday, I read to-day to my Russian colleague the telegrams which I have received from Mr. Fitzmaurice at Biredjik respecting conversions.

I asked M. de Nélidow whether I could have his support in arranging the question, and I alluded to his exceptional influence. He said I was quite mistaken, as the Sultan, he said, was still afraid of what England might do, whereas he looked on Russia as satisfied and paid no attention to her representations. M. de Nélidow however said that he was drawing up a Report to his Government on conversions, and professed much interest in the question. He considered Mr. Fitzmaurice's advice to be judicious; he agreed that the danger of reverting to Christianity during the present fanatical outbreak was too great a risk for the converts, but he proposed to urge upon the Turkish Government that the conversions should not be confirmed, and that the right of the converts to revert on the re-establishment of order should be reserved.

I brought the matter before the Ambassadors at a subsequent meeting which was held to consider the quay question, and obtained, with the assistance of M. de Nélidow, their promise to speak to the Porte in the sense he suggested.

I shall strongly urge the Sultan to do nothing in regard to the conversions until after consideration of the views of Mr. Fitzmaurice, whom I propose to authorize to come here after visiting Ourfa.

No. 255.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 6, 1896.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphed yesterday as follows :—

"Statistics are based on a detailed list giving the number of victims in the district of Saird village by village. They were not included in my former figures.

"Original number of Christians, 37,000; killed, 15,000; converted, 19,000; women carried off, 2,500; churches burnt or converted into mosques, 97.

"Erroneous as these numbers appear, I am assured that they are trustworthy, and that absolutely no Christians remain in these districts."

No. 256.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March 6, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 89 of to-day relative to communications which have taken place between you and your colleagues in regard to the forced conversions to the Mussulman religion.

Your proceedings and the action which you propose to take are entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 257.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 7, 1896, 7·15 P.M.*

AN Iradé has been issued appointing Zihni Pasha President of the Commission of Control.

No. 258.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 59. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 7, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 159, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, relative to a communication made to you by the Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch on the subject of attempts to induce his Beatitude to resign.

I approve the suggestions which you made as to the course which should be followed by Mgr. Ismirlian.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 259.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 162.) *Constantinople, February 29, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Acting Consul Richards, at Angora, respecting the state of affairs at Cæsarea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, February 24, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, from trustworthy information received from Cæsarea, I learn that the present state of affairs in that town is anything but satisfactory. It would appear that the great majority of the shops being still closed, trade generally is practically at a standstill.

During the last fortnight several Armenians have been arrested on a charge of having fired on a mosque two days after the massacre. This accusation has been brought by an Armenian in order to divert suspicion from himself, and the general opinion seems to be that it is entirely unfounded. At all events, I cannot find that Armenians provoked a Moslem attack in any one single instance, although there is no doubt that some fought desperately with their assailants, as was only natural, in the vain hope of saving their own lives. Two Armenian professors have also been imprisoned on a charge of inciting their co-religionists to rebel against the constituted authorities; but it is not clear whether this alleged action on their part is supposed to have been anterior or subsequent to the massacre—probably the former.

As might be expected, there is a very great deal of suffering and privation among the survivors of the massacre, some of whom wish to leave the country; but this, owing to the stringent Police Regulations on the subject, is always a very difficult matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 260.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 163.) *Constantinople, March 1, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum reporting on the new divisions added to the 4th Army Corps.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Erzeroum, February 18, 1896.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that it has been decided to add a new division of "Nizam" infantry to the 4th Army Corps, with head-quarters at Kharpout.

Like the two existing divisions, it is to consist of two brigades of four regiments each, or a total of sixteen battalions of infantry, and one regiment of artillery (field). The cavalry will probably be represented by the "Hamidieh" troops in that region.

This new force will be dispersed over the Vilayets of Kharpout and Diarbekir, and the battalions of the 7th division hitherto quartered in those districts will be withdrawn.

This addition to the active army coincides with the recent removal of the head-quarters of the 8th division from Bitlis to Van, and is considered in military circles here as intended to allow of a greater force being collected near the Russian frontier, and to establish a new strategical centre for concentrating troops to strengthen the 7th and 8th divisions in case of need, as also to provide a rallying point in case of a repulse.

Another opinion connects the formation of this new division with the contemplated expedition against the Kurds of the Dersim, which district is situated in the Kharpout Vilayet. This expedition, if carried out, will necessitate a force of 10,000 to 15,000 men to operate in the Dersim Mountains, and another, nearly of equal strength, to protect the inhabitants of the surrounding plains whilst the operations are going on.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 261.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 164.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 78 of the 25th February, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum respecting the projected expedition against the Dersim Kurds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, February 21, 1896.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of the 18th instant, I had the honour to report yesterday that some time ago Shakir Pasha proposed that a military expedition should be sent against the Kurds of the Dersim in the spring, and, in support of his plan he hinted at the possibility of a recurrence of Kurdish raids if measures were not taken to show the disapproval of the Government of the recent excesses, and its determination to put down any further attempts.

The Kurds of the Dersim being notoriously the most unruly of the tribes, Shakir Pasha thinks that action against them will act as an example to deter the others.

He professes ignorance of any decided opposition on the part of Zekki Pasha, and looks upon the Government's intention to establish an additional division of "Nizams" in the Kharpout district, to which Dersim belongs, as a sign of its acceptance of his project, but as he anticipated possible objections to his plan of operations by Zekki Pasha, he has decided to visit that officer at Erzingian, on his way to Sivas in April, to discuss details with him.

I have to add that the plan is to send a whole division to some central point in the Dersim Mountains, thus dividing the Kurdish forces and enabling the troops to deal with each half separately. The Kurds will be called upon to disarm and submit to be pressed into road making and other peaceful occupations.

It is also part of Shakir Pasha's project to try and establish schools and, if possible, mosques, with the purpose of introducing secular and religious education among these wild tribes.

As far as I can gather, it appears to be Shakir Pasha's opinion that past experience

with these semi-independent tribes shows that merely a punitive expedition would not be enough to secure their future good behaviour, and that the present circumstances offer an opportunity of effecting a permanent control over them.

There has been all along an evident reluctance on the part of the authorities to take any decisive action against the Kurds in general, or against the Mussulman population, as is proved by the fact that not a single Turk or Kurd has been brought to trial for participation in the pillaging and massacres of last autumn, but as the Dersim Kurds are all "Kizil-bash," and therefore non-Mussulmans, the Government no doubt feels less fear of rousing Mussulman feelings in making scapegoats of them than would probably be the case were they to institute an organized attempt to recover all the looted property of Armenians, and to arrest and punish the Turks and Kurds who participated in the wholesale massacres and pillaging.

If, in the meantime, Zekki Pasha thwarts Shakir Pasha's good intentions, his action will tend to give weight to the allegations, current at the time, as to his encouragement of the attacks on the Armenians by the Dersim Kurds, whom, in that case, it would but be natural he should now try to shield from the consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 262.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 165. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 116 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, stating that the emigration of Armenians, already reported by him, has been increasing week by week in that region.

I would at the same time call your Lordship's attention to Mr. Cumberbatch's suggestions on the subject of emigration to Cyprus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, February 22, 1896.*

IN my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I mentioned the existence of signs of emigration on the part of the Armenian population of this region, and I now have the honour to report that the movement has been developing week by week. From this town alone over 500 have already left furnished with Turkish passports, and as many more without.

So far the exodus has been confined to the male members of town families, the women folk intending to follow later on, and the chief inducement to leave the country appears to be the fear of further massacres or arrest on suspicion, but there are also signs of the intention of the rural population to follow the example of the townspeople.

The officials appear to place no obstacles in their way, if anything, the contrary, and, as regards the Vali, Raouf Pasha, I believe he tacitly approves of their departure as being in their interest, principally on account of their destitute condition, which there is little or no hope of the Government being able to improve, and because of the animosity of the Mussulman population that has been roused against them.

The question naturally arises as to what the ultimate destination of all these people is to be, and it has suggested itself to my mind that, should it benefit Cyprus in any way, Her Majesty's Government might be disposed to come to an understanding with the Ottoman Government to facilitate their emigration to that island to which, or to any

British Colony, or to the United States, I have reasons to believe they would willingly go if assisted.

I merely venture to submit this idea to your Excellency's consideration for what it may be worth, though I am not in a position to judge as to its feasibility, nor as to the manner in which it should be carried out, and I specially mention Cyprus because of its proximity to Asia Minor and its climatic and other features to which the Armenian agriculturists might adapt themselves more readily than to those of other parts of the world.

It may be that, if the Government shows unmistakable signs of an intention to take effective measures to protect the Christian subjects of the Sultan from future molestation, and to introduce the necessary reforms in the Administration, many Armenians, who, as a rule, are attached to the soil, would gladly remain, but at present the emigration movement is gaining ground daily.

If anything is done to assist the peasantry, either by the Turkish Government, or, as suggested above, by that of Her Majesty, it should be decided upon before the spring sets in, by which time the funds at the disposal of the Relief Committee will probably be exhausted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 263.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, transmitting a despatch from Mr. Hampson reporting discontent in Mussulman circles in Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 263.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, February 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to send your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the subject of a growing discontent in Mussulman circles against the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH

Inclosure 2 in No. 263.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Mush, January 28, 1896.*

EVEN in this distant province there is evidently a strong and growing discontent among the educated and intelligent Mussulmans with the Central Government at Constantinople. The feeling that this continued maladministration is not only impoverishing the country but seriously endangering its very existence, seems to be spreading rapidly. Turks have not hesitated to say to me that if the Sultan continues to be ruled by the unscrupulous and lying clique at Yildiz, Turkey cannot but be ruined; that there will never be any real improvement until there is a Parliament, and even that, if Abdul Hamid

persists in refusing to grant this, and to form a Ministry which shall be something more than an array of marionettes, who ostensibly govern and treat questions with the Embassies, but in truth, only obey the wire-pulling of Lutfa Agha and his fellows at the Palace, he must and will share the fate of Abdul Aziz.

How far these views have spread among the mass of the population it is difficult to say, but that they are by no means uncommon among the official classes, I have reason to know. I was told by an official only a few days ago, that the Turks will, ere long, learn to thank the Armenians for having been the means of opening their eyes to the abuses which have so long existed. Many Mussulmans now believe that no real improvement can be hoped for until there are radical changes at Constantinople, and the power of directing the Sultan's views, and of appointing officials is removed from the hands of the Yildiz clique.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 264.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 167. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Aleppo, forwarding a report on the massacres at Ourfa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 264.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, February 14, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy, translated in French, of a letter received lately by the Vekil of the Armenian community at Aleppo, giving an interesting account of the massacres of Ourfa.

Although these particulars were obtained from an Armenian source, they are accepted here as true, seeing that the principal facts reported are confirmed from other disinterested and reliable sources.

I think, however, that the number of victims stated in the above-mentioned letter is rather exaggerated. Judging from the various letters from Ourfa, received here by unconcerned people, and from the reports of several eye-witnesses who are presently in Aleppo, I am inclined to believe that the Armenians killed during the first and second massacre at Ourfa were not more than 7,000, including the women and the children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 264.

Letter received by the Vekil of the Armenian Community at Aleppo.

(Traduction.) *Ourfa, le 22 Janvier, 1896.*

LE Dimanche, 6 Novembre, à 5 heures à la Turque, un jeune homme de Biredjik, aidé de trois autres d'Ourfa, ont poignardé un sarraf (changeur de monnaies) Arménien devant la Cathédrale même. Il a été arrêté et remis au corps de garde, mais comme il persistait à déclarer que c'était d'ordre d'un Capitaine de l'armée qu'il avait assassiné cet

homme, il a été également mis à mort. Ses blessures constatées par les pharmaciens Molkos et Sarkis ont été reconnues avoir été faites par des baïonnettes.

Ces deux morts ont été le point de départ des massacres qui ont eu lieu par la suite. En effet, dès ce moment les esprits se sont échauffés, les Musulmans disaient ouvertement qu'ils devaient suivre l'exemple des Turcs de Marache, qui avaient exterminé les Chrétiens.

La même nuit à 7 heures à la Turque, ils font entendre une vingtaine de coups de fusil et demi-heure après une autre répétition, et tous les Arméniens étaient dans les craintes les plus mortelles jusqu'au matin.

Le lendemain la police pour surexciter les Musulmans faisait répandre le bruit que les Arméniens avaient fait feu la nuit sur les Turcs et qu'on n'attendait plus que l'ordre Impérial pour exterminer les Ghiaours. Malgré ces bruits les Arméniens se sont rendus à leurs affaires, mais ils furent de suite insultés, battus dans leurs propres magasins, et ont dû se retirer bien vite dans leurs maisons pour éviter de plus grands malheurs. Les Turcs profitant de leur absence se sont mis immédiatement à briser les devantures de leurs magasins et à les piller entièrement aidés qu'ils étaient en cela par les militaires. J'ai vu la chose de mes propres yeux par les fenêtres d'un hôtel où je me trouvais. De plus, le Chef Militaire, Hassan Pacha, ne considérant pas ce pillage comme satisfaisant, s'adressait aux pilleurs et leur criait: "Vous avez du temps pour piller, rendez-vous d'abord au quartier des Arméniens et exterminez-les, ensuite ravagez maisons et magasins à votre loisir." Voyant qu'on ne se rendait pas assez vite à son invitation il fit appeler un Capitaine et lui ordonna de prendre sa compagnie de soldats avec lesquels il pousserait les émeutiers sur le quartier Arménien. En effet, la troupe est arrivée et aux cris de "mort aux Chrétiens" a poussé tout ce monde vers le quartier Arménien et les maisons furent envahies, les propriétaires tués et les meubles et autres enlevés; mais les Arméniens avaient eu le temps de se barricader dans quelques fortes maisons, barrant les principaux passages des quartiers et avec les quelques revolvers qu'ils avaient, ils ont pu arrêter l'élan de ces forcenés qui se sont enfin retirés ayant détruit 300 maisons, tué 120 personnes et blessé 40 autres; de leur côté ils avaient 4 tués et 60 blessés. Dans leur rage sauvage ils se sont rués de nouveau sur le bazar et ont fini de piller 1,700 boutiques. Le lendemain les autorités locales sous le fallacieux prétexte que c'étaient les Arméniens qui avaient commencé, et pour surexciter encore davantage l'esprit chez les Musulmans qui n'avaient pas besoin de appoint [*sic*], les autorités, dis-je, ont fait appeler le pharmacien Melkon et ses trois parents, les ont fait passer immédiatement en cour martiale, les ont condamnés et livrés à la populace qui les a ignoblement maltraités, mutilés et traînés dans les rues leurs cadavres, qui ont été ensuite jetés du haut des remparts de "Karakams" dans les fossés au milieu des ordures et des immondices. Cet ignoble travail achevé le Gouvernement appela tous les paysans Turcs, Kurdes, Arabes, et autres et leur distribua les armes qu'ils avait en sa possession pour aller assaillir les Arméniens qui restaient enfermés chez eux; ils se sont donc rués encore une fois sur ce quartier en poussant des cris féroces et décidés de mettre tout à feu et à sang; mais ayant trouvé encore une résistance ils se sont retirés en laissant cinq morts mais ayant dévasté cinquante maisons et tué vingt Arméniens. Cette dernière affaire se passait le Mardi à 10 heures à la Turque, et immédiatement après le quartier Arménien fut entouré d'un cordon de troupes qui empêchait toutes communications avec le dehors.

Le Mercredi on emprisonna les Notables Arméniens de la ville et on voulut, de toute force, leur faire avouer qu'ils faisaient partie d'un Comité Révolutionnaire et on exigeait d'eux les noms des autres qui en faisaient partie, ainsi que de faire remettre au Gouvernement les prétendus 1,800 fusils qu'ils ont reçus du dehors ou une somme importante d'argent s'ils voulaient être délivrés. Ces pauvres gens ne pouvant pas avouer l'existence d'un Comité qui n'était pas, ni remettre des fusils qu'ils n'avaient jamais reçus, ont dû réunir tout ce qu'ils ont pu d'argent qu'ils ont versé entre les mains des Turcs en se fiant à leur parole. Au lieu alors de ce mettre en liberté, comme c'était promis, on les a au contraire enfermés dans des cachots plus affreux où ils gémissent encore.

Ce qui va suivre vous démontrera d'une façon irréfutable que c'est bien le Gouvernement lui-même qui a organisé et ordonné les massacres. Les autorités comprenant que pour détruire les Arméniens il leur faudrait sacrifier beaucoup de Turcs, ont alors trouvé un stratagème pour désarmer les Arméniens et les mettre entièrement à leur merci, une fois cette décision prise le Gouvernement a fait appeler les chefs de la communauté Arménienne et leur a déclaré que des ordres très formels ont été donnés pour que de nouveaux massacres n'aient plus lieu; mais que, de leur côté, les susdits chefs devaient engager tous leurs corcligionnaires à déposer les armes dont ils étaient munis. En répondant tout d'abord qu'ils n'avaient pas d'armes, ces prêtres ont promis d'user de leur influence auprès de leurs diocésains. Les Turcs, tout en protestant de leurs bonnes

intentions avaient pourtant fait ranger une batterie de canons au-dessus du quartier Arménien. Malgré tout, pendant une vingtaine de jours rien ne fut tenté contre les Arméniens, lesquels, il est vrai, restaient toujours renfermés dans leurs maisons.

Mais cela ne faisait pas le jeu des autorités locales qui voulaient en finir un moment plus vite; aussi de nouveau les prêtres furent appelés et on leur fit remarquer la tranquillité qui régnait en ville et la nécessité de faire déposer les armes pour que des deux côtés la confiance renaisse et que chacun puisse vaquer à ses affaires. Les prêtres ayant consenti de faire un essai, le Gouvernement les fit accompagner par des Mukhtars dans les demeures des Arméniens et là les prêtres étaient obligés d'ouvrir l'Evangile et de faire jurer à ces malheureux qu'ils avaient ou n'avaient pas d'armes.

S'ils en possédaient ils étaient de suite saisis et envoyés au Séraïl. La tournée terminée, pour être certains qu'il n'y avait plus de moyens de défense chez les Arméniens, les autorités ordonnèrent la fouille des maisons des prêtres et des tombeaux des églises.

Après avoir acquis la certitude que les Arméniens étaient à sa merci le Gouvernement a pourtant voulu leur donner un répit pour qu'avant de les faire mourir ils puissent voir dans la ville la misère à laquelle ils étaient condamnés et en effet il fit débloquer le quartier Arménien autorisant ces infortunés à se rendre à leur travail. Les pauvres Arméniens n'en pouvaient pas croire leurs yeux en voyant leurs magasins défoncés, vidés ou incendiés; voilà le spectacle que le Gouvernement a bien voulu leur offrir après quarante-huit jours d'internement dans leurs maisons et avant d'en envoyer la plus grande partie dans l'autre monde.

En effet, le 16 courant (c'est-à-dire le 28 Décembre d'après le Calendrier Romain) le bruit s'est répandu qu'un grand soulèvement se préparait par les Turcs contre les Arméniens; les prêtres sont allés dès le matin voir le Mutessarif (Gouverneur) pour lui demander d'empêcher de nouveaux troubles; à peine étaient-ils rentrés chez eux que le quartier Arménien fut cerné par 3,000 soldats et 1,500 Hamidiehs qui, avec la foule armée également par le Gouvernement, se sont rués, comme des bêtes furieuses, sur les maisons Arméniennes enfonçant les portes, démolissant les murs, tuant tout ce qu'ils rencontraient et incendiant ensuite les immeubles. Vous décrire les scènes horribles qui se sont passées, il m'est impossible; ma plume refuse de le faire; la pensée seule fait frissonner tout mon cœur et glace le sang dans mes veines.

Ce carnage a duré depuis 4 heures et demie à la Turque jusqu'au soir où, fatigués et n'y voyant plus, ces barbares d'un nouveau genre et dont les pareils n'existent pas sur la terre, se sont retirés chargé de butin chassant devant eux un grand nombre de femmes et de jeunes filles qu'ils ont ensuite vendu sur les places publiques en complet déshabillé pour 3 medjidiés à £ T. 1. Tout cela se faisait en invoquant la grâce du Prophète et celle de leur Sultan, l'ombre de Dieu sur la terre!

Leur férocité et leur sauvagerie n'étaient pas satisfaites, paraît-il, car le lendemain ils ont recommencé comme de la veille: les cadavres jonchaient les rues, les chiens léchaient leur sang et plusieurs même furent traînés dans les champs pour servir de pâture aux bêtes fauves ou aux oiseaux de proie.

Trois mille environ de ces pauvres Arméniens affolés de peur devant ces furies, ainsi que devant les incendies, s'étaient réfugiés dans la Cathédrale, où ils croyaient être en sûreté. La plupart étaient des femmes, filles, et enfants adressant leurs ferventes prières à Dieu pour faire cesser cette extermination. Vous croyez que ces fanatiques ont respecté le lieu saint? Non; ils se sont rués sur les portes qu'ils ont brisé à coups de hache, ont pénétré dans l'intérieur, ont tué tant que leurs bras ont pu résister à la fatigue; ont détruit enfin tous les objets du culte, et pour mettre le comble à leur œuvre destructive ces scélérats ont fait apporter du pétrole qu'ils ont répandu dans l'église, et autour des groupes de ces pauvres malheureux, qui sollicitaient la mort un peu plus vite. Puis y ont mis le feu, et tous ceux qui ne périssaient pas par le fer mouraient dans les flammes, pendant que cinq Mollahs (religieux Musulmans) adressaient du haut de l'église leurs remercîments à Mahomet.

Mgr. l'Evêque, qui depuis si longtemps dirigeait cette communauté, ayant voulu empêcher ces hordes sauvages d'envahir son église, fut blessé lui-même par un coup de feu.

Le nombre des victimes Arméniennes dans ces deux jours, du 16 et 17 Décembre (c'est-à-dire du 28 et 29 Décembre, N. s.) a atteint le chiffre exact de 10,000 personnes, qui sont restés plusieurs jours entassées les unes sur les autres dans les rues de la ville, après quoi les autorités ont requis les Israélites d'avoir à enlever les cadavres.

Ces derniers ont dû obéir, et durant une semaine entière on voyait les Juifs d'Ourfa traînant par des cordes comme ceux des chiens, les cadavres des Chrétiens pour les jeter dans les fosses autour de la ville.

Voilà quel fut le triste sort d'Ourfa. On n'y trouve plus aucune sûreté car chaque jour des nouvelles victimes sont encore faites; à Biredjek il n'y a plus aujourd'hui un seul Chrétien; tous ceux qui n'ont pas été mis à mort ou jetés dans l'Euphrate ont dû accepter la religion Islamique.

Les ventes des femmes et des jeunes filles Chrétiennes continue ici et à Biredjik à de vils prix sur les places publiques presque [toutes nues; plusieurs femmes et enfants couchent en plein air sur les ruines du quartier Arménien dont la vue cause le spectacle le plus navrant.

Vous serez tenu régulièrement au courant de ce qui pourrait avoir lieu; jusqu'à présent l'autorité locale reste inactive, et ne prend aucune mesure même apparent pour faire cesser l'hostilité des Turcs contre le petit nombre d'Arméniens qui reste encore vivant à Ourfa.

Agréez, &c.

N.B.—Le traducteur semble avoir commis des erreurs de date qui ne peuvent provenir que de la différence entre l'ancien et le nouveau style.

No. 265.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 3, 1896.*

ON receipt of Consul Cumberbatch's telegram of the 24th February, repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 78 of the 25th, I instructed Mr. Block to make a further attempt to ascertain what action the Ottoman Government proposed to take with regard to the Kurds.

The Grand Vizier informed him on the 26th instant very confidentially that an expedition was contemplated against the Kurds of the Dersim, who had always been troublesome and quasi-independent, and that the Government considered the moment an opportune one for obtaining a stronger hold upon them and for constituting a proper system of administration in that district. Nothing definite, however, had been decided, and his Highness professed to be ignorant of Zekki Pasha's alleged opposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 266.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 3, 1896.*

I HAD the honour of being invited to the Palace of Yildiz last night to take iftar, the evening meal eaten by the Mohammedans in Ramazan as soon as the sun sets.

I had subsequently the honour of being received by the Sultan in private audience.

The Foreign Minister acted as interpreter at this interview, which lasted about half an hour.

After some general conversation, the Sultan said he hoped I was pleased with the reforms which had been already executed. I replied by observing that His Imperial Majesty had told me at the last audience that Zihni Pasha, the late Governor of Aleppo, would be appointed President of the Commission of Control, but this apparently had not been done.

His Majesty said that Zihni Pasha had been summoned here, but deserved, he thought, a little rest. Had we any fault to find with Shefik Bey, the present President? He had not heard of any complaints against him. The Commission was working well, and but for the disorders which had occurred all the reforms would have been put into execution by this time. I said that unfortunately the Commission had not sat for the last fortnight. The Sultan denied all knowledge of this fact, and desired the Minister of Foreign Affairs to inquire into the matter, which he said exclusively concerned the Sublime Porte. He desired me to send a dragoman to the Palace on the following

day, when the First Secretary would give him a clear statement of the progress already made.

I then mentioned to His Majesty the incident of Chabakchur, reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 82 of yesterday. Fifteen Armenian families had been forced to embrace Mohammedanism, but had subsequently on the receipt of orders from Constantinople reverted to their original faith. As soon as they did so, they were attacked by Kurds and massacred. I pointed out that there was great danger that similar incidents might occur in other places, and urged that measures should be taken for their prevention. His Imperial Majesty said he had no knowledge of the occurrence. He would inquire by telegraph and inform me of the result next day.

I asked His Imperial Majesty if there was any truth in the report which had reached me that Shakir Pasha contemplated an expedition against the Kurds of Dersim. His Majesty said that he had no knowledge of such an expedition. He had given Shakir Pasha general instructions to protect his peaceful subjects if the Kurds attacked them. Shakir Pasha and other officials would be justified in using the troops to repel the aggressors.

His Majesty explained at some length that the Kurds were a difficult people to deal with, and deserved much of the blame which had been thrown on the Turks. Their religious peculiarities made them less amenable to his influence than orthodox Mohammedans.

They were mostly Shiites, and some of them Yezidis, commonly called devil-worshippers, and it was hard to make them listen to the advice of Cadis and Imams, who were able to keep the Turks in order.

The audience then terminated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 267.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 172. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora, reporting upon the fatal affray which took place at Kirshehir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 267.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, February 29, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I have just had an interview with the Vali, who assures me that the so-called "massacre" of Armenians at Kirshehir can hardly be so characterized with any strict regard for the truth, inasmuch as only two Armenians were killed on the spot, two have since died of their wounds, and three are reported as wounded.

His Excellency assures me most positively that he has no reason whatever for believing that the causes of this most regrettable occurrence were of a political or religious nature, a belief which would appear to be founded on the fact, so he informs me, that there was not, subsequent to the "disorder," a single instance of any dwelling-house or shop being entered with violence and pillaged. This, he points out, is all the more extraordinary in that the Armenian population of Kirshehir is very small, numbering in fact only 800 souls all told, whereas there are at least 20,000 Mussulman inhabitants. On the other hand, I pointed out to the Vali that the mere fact that even according to his own, the official account, none but Christians had suffered in this affray, was to my mind almost conclusive proof that the causes of the outbreak were more or less of a religious complexion, more especially if it be remembered that we are now in the month of

Ramadan, a time when the Mussulman temper is likely to be excitable and easily provoked.

I asked his Excellency if he was aware that Aarifi Bey, the Mutessarif of Kirshehir, enjoys anything but a good reputation among Turks as well as Christians, and he replied that he was ignorant of this fact, owing to his having been so short a time in the vilayet.

On my asking the Vali what he believed to be the cause of this "affray," he replied that he had no idea whatever, having received as yet no detailed report from the Mutessarif, who had confined himself to the statement (telegraphic of course) that there was no question of a "massacre," and that the cause of the affray was neither religious or political in its nature. I then asked the Vali what steps, if any, had been taken to re-establish order and tranquillity in the town of Kirshehir, and he replied that Sherif Pasha, the Commandant of Kaisarieh, had sent thither a Captain and fifty men of the Reserve, while he, on his part, had dispatched a small body of zaptiehs, as many as could be spared from this town.

I much regret that I am not in a position as yet either to confirm or disprove the statements made to me by the Vali, Kirshehir being at a distance of four days' journey from here, and all private telegrams on this subject between that town and this being, as might be supposed, prohibited.

I have just learnt from an independent and generally well-informed source that the number of killed as given officially, viz., four, is correct, but that there are thirteen wounded, and not three.

In any case, I hope to be able to send your Excellency a further report on this subject in a day or two.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 268.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 3, 1896.*

IN compliance with the Sultan's request mentioned in my despatch No. 171 of the 2nd March, I sent Mr. Block, First Dragoman of this Embassy, to Yildiz yesterday in order to receive from His Majesty's First Secretary the promised Report on the progress made in executing the reforms.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block describing his interview.

I have communicated this document to my French and Russian colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Mr. Block to Sir P. Currie.

WITH reference to my Memorandum No. 97 and the question of reforms which formed part of the subject of conversation between your Excellency and the Sultan, at the latter's request I called upon the First Secretary yesterday and he produced the register on the subject, from which he read the following :—

Article 1.—The Assistants to the Valis have been named in the six provinces.

With regard to Assistants to Mutessarifs, the Grand Vizier has inquired of Shakir Pasha the names of fit persons whom he should suggest to the Porte for the post. No answer having been received, His Majesty has instructed the Grand Vizier to press Shakir Pasha for a reply.

With regard to Assistants to Kaïmakams, the Grand Vizier has given instructions for sending all the information on this subject to the Commission of Control, where the matter will be examined.

Article 5.—The registers of the Census have been asked for, but as they have not yet been received from the provinces, the Sultan has instructed the Grand Vizier to press for the same.

Article 6. Councils of sandjaks and cazas.—The Sultan has given fresh orders to the Porte twenty days ago.

Article 7. Nahies.—Instructions sent to the Vilayet of Erzeroum to give the Porte information as to what already exists and what further measures are necessary.

Article 17. Councils of Ancients.—The Porte has requested the Ministry of Justice to take this matter in hand. The Sultan has given fresh orders to the Porte to see to this.

Article 19. Judicial Inspectors.—These have been named and sent off. The Commission of Control had asked that they should be instructed to send Reports as to their work every three months, and the Sultan had approved of this suggestion and given orders to the Porte accordingly.

Article 20. Police.—Correspondence on this question is being carried on between the competent Departments.

Article 22. Gendarmerie.—Instructions have been sent to the competent Departments for Regulations to be drawn up.

Article 24. Gardes champêtres.—The Article has been communicated to the Minister of War.

Article 25. Prisons.—At Erzeroum there has been an inspection of prisons and a gaol delivery; instructions have been sent to follow the same course in other places.

Article 27. Control of Kurds.—The Article has been communicated to the Minister of War and Minister of Justice, and orders have been given to the Minister of Police.

Article 28. Hamidié Cavalry.—Orders given to the Minister of Justice and the Minister of War.

Article 29. Land titles.—Instructions have been given for the Commissions to be sent off.

Article 30. Collection of taxes.—Orders have been given for instructions to be sent.

Article 32. Commission of Control.—Appointed and at work.

The Inspector-General has been appointed, and is carrying out his duties at Erzeroum.

The Christian Inspector has been appointed.

The amnesty has been granted.

I pointed out that, practically speaking, only three things had been done:—

1. The appointment of Shakir Pasha;

2. The appointment of the Commission of Control, which had, however, ceased to meet, and had no power nor President; and

3. The appointment of Judicial Inspectors, who had certainly started, but nothing was known as to what they had done or were doing.

The Assistants to Valis had been named; the choice was not a very wise one, but as they had not started they might as well not exist.

With regard to Article 5, the Census Return from Erzeroum had been sent, but nothing further had been done.

With regard to Article 25, I had heard that Shakir Pasha had let out some prisoners, but in every town of the Empire there were numbers of Armenians lying in prison without a trial.

Shakir's Assistant had not started, and as far as I knew the Porte had no knowledge of his appointment; and with regard to the amnesty it had by no means been general, as many Armenians, who ought to have benefited by the same, were still in prison.

In fact, I called the attention of the First Secretary and of Izzet Bey, who had joined us, to the fact that though on paper something seemed to have been done and certain instructions had been sent, yet practically the reforms were as yet unexecuted. His Majesty had certainly given repeated orders, and as your Excellency had stated at the audience, you relied upon him and trusted that he would carry them through as he had promised, but that unfortunately the orders had been somewhat neglected.

The reforms might be said to be executed when they were in working order and the people were profiting by them, otherwise it was useless to say that they had been carried out, and I appealed to them as practical intelligent men as to whether this opinion was not correct. They finally admitted this was the case, and threw the blame on the Porte; at the same time they said that all the Sultan's instructions to the Grand Vizier would be repeated. Some of the Articles could not be carried out at present they said, such as the disarmament of the Kurds, and in other cases the season was not propitious, as no one could travel about the country; they complained also of the apathy of the local

Governors, and I suggested the Sultan could change them. I mentioned as bad Governors Halib Bey of Sivas, Eunis Pasha of Diarbekir, and Faïk Pasha of Adana, and I warned them that unless their Governors took great precautions and measures were taken to keep the Kurds in order, there was great danger of renewed disorders in the spring.

The general impression left upon me by the whole conversation is that the Sultan is sheltering himself behind the Porte for anything left undone, and that the whole system of administration is so disorganized and out of gear that no real amelioration is possible. The Grand Vizier may give as many orders as he pleases, but as any subordinate can neglect them and appeal direct to the Sultan, there is an end of the matter. The Sultan in the meantime can always say he instructed the Grand Vizier, and he is therefore not to blame. No Minister has any intercourse with the Sultan, except those who for personal reasons blindly follow his policy of inaction and retrogression, the rest, among them being the Grand Vizier, being mere cyphers without a vestige of authority.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

March 3, 1896.

No. 269.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 174.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 5, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts of a private letter from Mr. Hallward, giving an account of his journey from Van to Diarbekir, on his transfer to the latter post. His account of the condition of the Armenians in the district he passed through shows that very little has been done by the authorities to restore confidence and security.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Sir P. Currie.

Dear Sir Philip Currie, *Diarbekir, February* 19, 1896.

I ARRIVED here yesterday, and the post leaves to-day, so I have only time for a line to give my general impressions of what I saw and heard on the road.

I started on the 31st ultimo from Van in the coldest weather which has been seen there for a long time. I had to go round the north side of the lake, and consequently took eight days to get to Bitlis, instead of three, as in summer South of Bitlis it wasn't so cold, but I had alternate snow and rain most of the way, and seas of mud to wade through. There is no made road between Bitlis and this, and very few bridges.

The Armenians everywhere are in a state of great apprehension, not to say terror, as regards the future, as they believe that the Kurds will not remain quiet, but will probably carry out further massacres before long, unless the Government adopt a very different attitude towards them than they have hitherto done. I have not yet heard of a single case in which the authors of massacre or plunder were punished in any way, and no serious attempt has been made to restore to the Armenians their plundered property. The Government apparently wishes the Kurds to keep quiet now, but is trying to effect this merely by verbal representations, and not by action of any sort.

At Bitlis the Government is trying to fasten the responsibility for the disturbances on Mr Knapp, the American missionary, and had actually served him with a summons to answer a charge of disturbing the peace a few days before my arrival—a most outrageously absurd charge, as the Armenians in the first place gave no sort of provocation for the massacre which took place there, in which 400 Armenians were killed, and one Turk, apparently by mistake. The Armenians made no resistance, either to the massacre or the plunder of their shops which followed. The Vali appears to be a weak man, and to have

fallen entirely under the influence of the fanatical Moslem element, which is very strong in Bitlis.

* * * * * *

Between Farkin and here I passed six Armenian villages which had been completely burned; there was not a soul in any of them. Several others have shared the same fate. The bazaars of this town are also burnt. The number of people killed in the town is estimated at about 3,000. I am told by my French colleague they were mostly killed in their houses, which were broken into by the local Turks, not by Kurds; the number killed outside in the streets was comparatively small. Things, on the whole, seem to be decidedly worse here than in Van.

I will report officially on my journey by next post.

(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 270.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 9, 1896.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Mr. Hallward, dated the 8th March:—

"About 7,000 Armenians have been forcibly converted in Silouan and 3,000 in the Palou Cazas, besides many in other districts. They remain Mussulman under threats of death if they revert to Christianity. The feeling of insecurity here continues, and appears to be kept up by some of the principal Turks who were concerned in the massacre. Apprehension is also felt at Mardin.

The presence of the Vali, who was deeply implicated in the massacre, is a continual menace to the public safety.

The departure of Abdullah Pasha would almost certainly give rise to renewed disturbances.

No. 271.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 94. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 10, 1896.*

I RECEIVED yesterday a long message from the Sultan, the substance of which was that the relations between England and Turkey would be entirely satisfactory if only the protection extended to Murad Bey in Egypt were withdrawn. There were only two important questions pending between Her Majesty's Government and his own.

The first was Egypt. This he had already taken in hand, and had only dropped the matter temporarily on account of the interference of the press; but he had every intention of resuming the discussion, and, while reserving the main points for settlement in London, hoped I should be authorized to deal with details here.

The other, the Armenian question, had now been entirely disposed of in accordance with the advice of Her Majesty's Government.

His attitude in these two questions was the best proof of his good-will towards England.

His Majesty also expressed his regret that the post of President of the Commission of Reform had been refused by Zihni Pasha. It will therefore continue to be filled by Shefik Bey. This is the man to whom your Lordship previously objected. (*Vide* Foreign Office telegram No. 210 of 6th November, 1895, to Mr. Herbert.)

No. 272.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 12, 1896, 11·15 A.M.*

I HAVE made representations, together with the United States' Minister, concerning the American missionaries in Kharput, who are much alarmed as to danger of a renewed massacre during Bairam owing to the inaction of the authorities and the attitude of the population. I fear that the authorities may be seeking a protext to attack the Armenians. I hear to-day from Mr. Hallward, at Diarbekir, who is in communication with missionaries at Kharput, that the Vali has received orders to take measures against an Armenian attack on the mosques. The arrest of Arif Effendi has improved the situation in Diarbekir.

In the villages of Kharput Vilayet much difficulty is experienced in distributing relief, owing to the Kurds. Fontana is on his way thither, but will not arrive till after Bairam.

No. 273.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 12, 1896, 10·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 96 of to-day's date, I hear that Arif Effendi is one of the leaders of the Young Turkey party at Diarbekir, where it is said to be very strong. Their object is to organize a massacre of the Christians, and so bring about the intervention of the Powers and deposition of the Sultan.

No. 274.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 13, 1896, 7·40 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 58 of 15th February.

The Hunchagists from Zeitoun have left Mersina. Their destination is Marseilles.

No. 275.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 14, 1896, 12·30 P.M.*

ON the suggestion of the French Chargé d'Affaires, who is telegraphing to his Consul at Jeddah, the Russian Ambassador and myself have agreed to telegraph similar instructions to our Consuls. I accordingly sent the following telegram to Mr. Alban to-day:—

"I made a joint communication to the Porte with the Russian and French Ambassadors on 26th February, pressing for indemnity and punishment of culprits. Should the latter be impossible the Governor-General should call personally at the three Consulates, formally express his regret that he is unable to inflict punishment, and apologize for the outrages."

The Iradé ordering indemnities was issued on 27th February, but we have received no reply to the second demand.

You should abstain from the usual visits of courtesy at Bairam, as the Governor-General has not made formal excuses.

Your French and Russian colleagues will receive similar instructions, and you should concert with them.

No. 276.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 14, 1896, 7·20 P.M.

I SEE no objection to the reply proposed in your telegram No. 46 of 14th March. Claims are being presented by other Embassies.

No. 277.

Consul-General Wood to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tabriz, February* 26, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 15th January last, bringing to your Lordship's notice certain endeavours to bring about troubles between the Mussulman and Christian subjects of the Shah, with which rumour reproached the Turkish authorities in these parts, I have the honour to report the following information, extracted from a letter received by a member of the American Mission in Tabriz.

From this communication it would appear that several Mussulmans,* under the leadership of a Seyid of Soujbulak, were a short time ago sent by the Shahbanda (Turkish official of that place) to Maragha (two days' distance from Tabriz), with the object of fomenting disturbances between the Armenians and natives in that district. This Mission, however, was unsuccessful in carrying out its object as both parties were aware of its purpose.

The arrival of Turkish emissaries at Tabriz, on the same errand as described above, has also been brought to my knowledge. These people came from Tehran in the guise of pedlars. In this character they obtained access to many Armenian houses in Leilabad (a section of the Armenian quarter in Tabriz), but their Turkish accent put their customers on their guard.

From private correspondence with the missionaries in Urumia, I learn that a Kurdish Chief, the son of Sheikh Obeidullah (who invaded Urumia in 1880), is purchasing arms and making preparations which are not in accord with peaceful intentions.

The English missionaries and others in those parts seem to think that the Kurds on the frontier—access to which from this side is very carefully guarded—are meditating a descent in force upon Persian territory in spring.

I have most respectfully to point out that the above information has been given to me confidentially by the members of the American and English Missions in these parts, and on the understanding that the callings as well as the names of my correspondents should not be made public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL G. WOOD.

No. 278.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation from to-day's Turkish paper of a notification published at Diarbekir by the travelling Commission of Inquiry composed of Sami Effendi, Abdullah Pasha, and Hussein and Rushdi Effendis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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* Turkish subjects and Sunnis.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Extract from the "Tarik" of March 5, 1896.

(Translation.)

THE travelling Commission of Inquiry, composed of Sami Effendi, Abdullah Pasha, and Hussein and Rushdi Effendis, arrived recently at Diarbekir, and published the following notice:—

"We have been sent by His Majesty the Sultan to restore and establish order and tranquillity from Samsoon to Diarbekir.

"Every one is aware that His Majesty's only desire is that all his subjects, Mussulman or non-Mussulman, should enjoy comfort and tranquillity, and this desire has been abundantly proved since his accession by countless acts of generosity and benevolence to all communities alike.

"His Majesty desires that all classes of his subjects should live in friendly relations with one another; he has granted orders and official rank to members of every community impartially. It is therefore to be regretted that certain foolish persons, unable to appreciate His Majesty's good-will, should have disseminated idle and fantastical ideas among the people, tending to destroy the peace and order which they have enjoyed for centuries.

"These persons have formed diabolical plans, incompatible with the divine laws and customs of the blessed East, the source of religion and law; they have thus endeavoured to withdraw the benefits of their country from those of their compatriots, who enjoy an exceptional position in matters of trade, wealth, and industry, by forcing them to share these with such as possess no part in them, whereas this is impossible, as unity of government, such as is established in every country, is necessary.

"For centuries the various nationalities such as Greeks, Greek Catholics, Armenians, Armenian Catholics, Protestants, Syrians, Chaldæans, Nestorians, Jacobites, Jews, have all preserved their religions, languages, and customs under the Ottoman rule. It is therefore clear that the responsibility of disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the Ottoman dominions falls upon these idle dreams.

"Accordingly the Ottomans, in accordance with the good customs which they have inherited from their ancestors, should continue their affection and kindness to their fellow-subjects, and on their side the Christians must also follow their inherited traditions and the teachings of their sacred books, and, appreciating the wickedness of the agitators and the benefits of living tranquilly, should show that they are worthy of the reforms and laws which will cause universal happiness. They will thus profit according to their share in the collective benefits of the country.

"They should avoid anything which may disturb peace and tranquillity, and should always conduct themselves in accordance with His Majesty's desires.

"Those who render good service in this cause will be worthy of praise, whereas those who venture to act contrary to it, of whatsoever nationality, will be destroyed by armed force, to which purpose this notification is published.

No. 279.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 178. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Aleppo, forwarding a letter from the Armenian Bishop of Aleppo, giving further details of the Armenian massacres which took place in the various districts of Syria and Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 279.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Aleppo, February* 21, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's consideration, a letter from the Armenian Bishop of Aleppo containing further details upon the massacres which took place in the various districts of Syria and Anatolia. I am told that a similar letter has also been addressed to the other Consuls at Aleppo.

On the other hand, it is with satisfaction that I am able to report to your Excellency that the pacification of Zeitoun has produced an excellent effect among the Mussulman and Christian population of Aleppo (the Armenians excepted), and that perfect tranquillity exists here at present, despite the presence of the "famous" Ourfa Redifs, whose arrival here had caused a certain panic among the Christians in general.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CATONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 279.

The Armenian Bishop of Aleppo to Acting Consul Catoni.

M. le Consul, *Aleppo, le* 5 (17) *Février*, 1896.

NOUS prenons la liberté de venir vous exposer en détail les cruautés qui ont été commises dernièrement sur notre pauvre peuple dont une grande partie a trouvé la mort dans toute l'Anatolie et la Syrie.

Ces renseignements nous ont été fournis par des lettres que nous avons reçues des membres de notre communauté.

A Ourfa il y a eu 10,000 personnes massacrées, au nombre desquels 3,000 et quatre prêtres ont été brûlés vifs dans l'église préalablement enduite de pétrole; deux autres prêtres ont été assassinés dans la rue et un troisième blessé. Beaucoup d'autres personnes blessées restent sans soins ni secours demandant la mort à grands cris. Le reste, qui se compose de 250 familles environ, a été invité à accepter la religion Musulmane au lieu de se voir égorgé à son tour.

A Bérédjik sur 380 maisons Chrétiennes, 100 personnes ont été massacrées et les autres se sont faits Musulmans par force pour échapper à la mort. L'église a été convertie en mosquée et appelée Mosquée Hamidié.

A Eknèche, à six heures de distance, les habitants de 100 maisons ont été complètement exterminés et le curé tué dans l'église même.

A Nijib environ 350 Arméniens furent contraints à se faire Musulmans. Il en a été de même à Djibine, où, en outre, une centaine de personnes ont disparu. A Roum Kalé les trente maisons Arméniennes ont été pillées puis détruites et les habitants forcés à devenir Musulmans.

A Arapkir, des 250 maisons Arméniennes qui y existaient il ne reste plus que 300 [*sic*] environ qui ont été également pillées: 4,000 personnes ont été odieusement massacrées, au nombre desquelles quatre prêtres, un Archimandrite, et un missionnaire Protestant. Quelques habitants étant parvenus à s'échapper les autorités les ont fait venir au Sérail sous le prétexte de les protéger et là on les a fusillés comme des criminels.

Les trois églises Arméniennes et le temple Protestant ont été incendiés. Pour comble de malheur le reste des habitants se trouve dans la plus grande misère sans presque de vêtements ni nourriture, souffrant le froid et la faim.

Tous les villages de ce district, sans exception, ont eu chacun à son tour la terrible visite de ces hordes barbares de Kurdes Hamidiés qui, excités par l'autorité, ont commis les plus grandes atrocités, tuant, pillant, et brûlant. Les femmes et les filles ont été enlevées, souillées et subi les traitements les plus affreux.

A Miadoan, Mamsa, et Parmeri les Kurdes, après avoir massacrés tous les habitants ont pillé les maisons qu'ils ont ensuite incendiées.

A Palou, le nombre des victimes a atteint le chiffre de 2,000. Dans l'école nationale, le professeur et tous ses élèves ont été massacrés.

Toutes les maisons et toutes les boutiques ont été réduites en cendres. Dans tous les villages situés aux alentours de cette ville on a eu à déplorer les mêmes cruautés et les mêmes atrocités.

Plus de 4,000 habitations ont été complètement incendiées et ruinées.

Pour comble d'abomination les Turcs, pour cacher aux yeux de l'Europe leurs cruautés, ont exigé, le couteau sous la gorge, que les Arméniens restant en vie mettent leurs signatures au bas d'une adresse de remerciments à la Sublime Porte pour leur avoir sauvé la vie, &c.

Dans le Vilayet de Sivas les Kurdes d'Aghdjadaghe se sont jetés sur Derendé et Achod, ont pillé 300 maisons ainsi que le couvent de Saint-Jacques, après avoir tué tous les Chrétiens au nombre desquels l'Évêque Sahag.

Ces Kurdes se sont dirigés ensuite sur Gurune où ils ont massacré 2,000 personnes et blessé beaucoup d'autres. Ces derniers, privés des premiers soins et de tout secours, appellent la mort comme un sauveur pour mettre fin à leurs atroces souffrances.

Cinq personnes de notre ville qui avaient bien voulu se charger d'aller porter des secours qui avaient été récoltés ici en faveur des malheureuses victimes dont nous venons de parler, ont été elles-mêmes victimes de leur dévouement, ayant été assassinées en route et dépouillées avant d'avoir atteint leur but. De sorte qu'il nous est absolument impossible de pouvoir faire parvenir nos secours aux malheureux qui souffrent dans ces contrées.

Voilà, M. le Consul, l'exposé en résumé des atrocités commises sur nos pauvres Arméniens, la douloureuse et triste situation qui est faite à ceux qui ont réussi à échapper à la mort en s'apostasiant et se faisant Musulmans pour se conformer au désir des Turcs et qui malgré tout cela sont encore continuellement dans des transes cruelles au souvenir des atrocités commises sur leurs frères.

Nous osons donc venir vous supplier, M. le Consul, au nom de l'humanité, de la justice, et du droit des gens de vouloir bien intervenir auprès de qui de droit pour protéger ces malheureux, qui souffrent la plus noire misère et endurent les plus cruelles souffrances, afin qu'il leur soit permis de pouvoir sortir pour se livrer à un travail quelconque, qui leur permette de fournir du pain à leurs familles et aux nombreux orphelins qui vous crient comme à un père: "Avez pitié de nous, ne nous laissez pas mourir de faim. Du pain, s'il-vous-plaît."

Veuillez agréer, &c.

L'Évêque Arménien,

(Signé) BEDROS VARTABED NERGARARIAN.

No. 280.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 179. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Jeddah, reporting on the state of affairs there.

I have shown this despatch to the French and Russian Embassies, and am communicating the substance to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Jeddah, February* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to state that there is no change in the general state of affairs here.

All attempts to arrest the alleged assassins of the late Dr. Abdur Razzack have been abandoned, and the Vali and the Grand Shereef appear to be now devoting their entire attention to the preparation of plans for enriching themselves at the expense of the pilgrims during the coming pilgrimage, which bids fair to be an unusually large one, in view of the general expectation that the 9th of Zil Hijja will fall on a Friday.

As I informed your Excellency in my Confidential despatch of the 19th ultimo, I wrote to Ahmed Ratib Pasha on the 20th ultimo pressing for the arrest of the assassins. I am informed that when his Excellency showed my letter to the Grand Shereef, he remarked that he was entirely at a loss how to reply to it, and that he contemplated coming here for the purpose of giving verbal explanations. This, however, he has not done, and my communication, like those addressed to him by other Consuls on the subject, remains without a reply. Doubtless his Excellency is by no means anxious to come here, where the Consular Corps would have free access to him, and inconvenient questions might be asked.

In the meantime the Bedouin prisoners remain in confinement here and in Mecca. A son of one of the principal Sheikhs of the Harb tribe, who paid a secret visit to Jeddah a few days ago, stated that matters remain unchanged as regards the tribe, except that many of the relatives of the prisoners are enraged with Hamed-bin-Nefaa (the alleged ringleader of the assassins), and may very probably assassinate him. There is, however, no likelihood of their surrendering him to the local authorities. He also stated that the assassins were perfectly aware that the persons whom they were attacking were Consuls (as seems natural in view of their intimate knowledge of the town), and that the outrage was committed by Hamed-bin-Nefaa in order to get the Grand Shereef into trouble. This, whether true or not, is evidently the line of defence which the accused will adopt, and there is no doubt that they have substantial grievances to complain of. I am informed that when the Harb tribe asked for hostages they expressly stated that, in the event of the accused being condemned after a fair and open trial, no harm would be done to the hostages, and that they would only retaliate on them in the event of treachery. That, if publicly tried the accused would be outspoken, and would make full revelations respecting many of the Grand Shereef's proceedings, is most probable, and this fact alone would sufficiently explain the Grand Shereef's failure to put them on their trial.

It appears, also, from the statements of the Bedouin referred to above, that the Harb tribe would have taken much more decided action against the Grand Shereef had they not been deterred by fears for the safety of the prisoners. With the troops, however, they do not wish to have hostilities, their enmity being entirely directed against Aoon Pasha, from whom they have suffered so much oppression and extortion.

I have the honour to report that the Ottoman steam-ship "Taif" arrived here on the 31st ultimo with 1,300 Turkish troops, of whom 800 landed here for Mecca, the remainder proceeding to the Yemen.

The partial rebuilding of the town walls has now been completed. The materials used were very inferior, and one or two rainy seasons will probably reduce the walls to their former tumble-down condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 281.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 167 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Aleppo, giving further details with regard to the massacres at Ourfa and Biredjik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 281.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, February* 19, 1896.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 14th instant. I have the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith a few extracts of a letter addressed, on the 28th January last, to the United States' Consular Agent in Aleppo by Miss Corinna Shattuck, of the American Mission at Ourfa, in regard to the regrettable disturbances which took place there in October and December 1895.

As your Excellency will observe, the statements which are made by Miss Shattuck confirm more or less the principal facts related in the letter addressed from Ourfa to the Vekil of the Armenian community at Aleppo, of which I have had the honour to transmit to your Excellency a copy, translated in French, in my above-mentioned despatch of the 14th instant, "especially as concerns the unpardonable conduct of the local authorities of Ourfa towards the Christians."

With regard to the number of victims, I believe that the figures given by Miss Shattuck are very moderate in comparison of those generally credited here.

I inclose also a copy of a Report recently received by the United States' Consular Agent at Aleppo from the American missionaries of Aintab respecting the last events of Biredjik, for your Excellency's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 281.

Miss Shattuck to the American Consular Agent at Aleppo.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Ourfa, January* 28, 1896.

YOUR telegram, &c.

The terrible massacre of the 28th and 29th December, 1895, has taken between 4,000 to 5,000 Christians—Gregorians and Protestants chiefly. Only a few Catholics were disturbed, and Syrians not at all. Our loss from the Protestant congregation of 1,350 is 115; these are mostly men, among them our pastor, Rev. H. Aboohbayatian, and several of our influential men. Of the Gregorian nine priests only two remained, and these are wounded. The aged Bishop remains alive, but is too feeble for public responsibilities.

Under my shadow seventeen houses were spared from being plundered, besides this not a dozen remain unemptied.

During the disturbance of the 28th and 29th October, all the Christian shops, some 600 to 700, were completely plundered, so that there is no business for the men that remain. Besides this, all are in great fear.

Our new soldiers, some 1,600 arrived since the last massacre, are yet untried. The Ourfa Redifs leave to morrow. They have proved false guards of the people. They are responsible for the awfulness of this last affair. The people unaided by the soldiers could never have done half the evil they did. The soldiers were well acquainted with the localities, having been guards among the Christians two months; they led the mob they guarded while the mob killed, and they also killed many. The butchery and burning of 2,500 to 3,000 in the Gregorian Church on Sunday was the most terrible thing of all. For two days after the soldiers allowed nobody to enter the church, and they themselves gathered much gold and silver from the ashes and bones; then Jews were employed to clean out the church. For two days they carried in sacks the ashes and bones, and emptied them somewhere outside the city.

These Redifs have from first to last stolen money and goods from the people in untold amounts. Many offered money for their lives during the massacre; soldiers took the money and then killed those giving it. The officials, and some of the private Moslem citizens, have been very friendly with me, calling and inquiring the needs of our people, &c.

I think they were exceedingly anxious that I give only good report of the

Government. I am grateful for all this and for the personal kindness of the soldiers, but I cannot fail to tell the truth in regard to their cruel inhuman work. They could have stopped it quickly and allowed it to continue two days, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 281.

Report addressed by the American Missionaries of Aintab to the United States' Consular Agent at Aleppo respecting the Events of Biredjik.

THE Christian population of Biredjik consisted of about 200 houses. For some two months the Christians have been almost wholly kept within their houses from fear. On the 1st January, at about two hours after sunrise, the massacre began without any apparent cause, and continued until night. The soldiers and Moslems of the city generally participated in the work. It is believed that none from outside took any part in it.

At first the principal object seemed to be plunder, but later on the soldiers undertook the work of systematic killing, and profession of Islam or death was the alternative for all men. Ninety-six men are known and listed as killed. Many of the victims were dragged to the river and, with stones tied to them, were thrown into it. One young man was caught and a rope thrown about his neck and dragged off. Three times he succeeded in freeing himself and getting on to his feet, but was finally overpowered and bound and thrown into the river. All the houses of Christians were pillaged except two, who were saved by Moslem neighbours, who claimed them as their property.

Christian girls were eagerly sought after, and much dispute and quarrelling occurred in dividing them among the captors.

They tried to marry them to Moslem young men as soon as possible, but Government interfered and reclaimed and sent to their friends all that could be found. Forty-two were thus returned, and two were thus married to Moslems.

There is not a single Christian remaining in Biredjik. Many men were killed after offering to accept Islam. The Moslem women have been calling on the recently converted women, congratulating them on their new faith, and teaching them its observance. As the Turks doubted the sincerity of the new converts, they arranged a second massacre, which was averted by the new converts promising to change the Armenian church into a mosque.

They are now at work making the required alterations in the building. The Protestant church will be made into a Moslem school-house, if the missionaries do not claim it as American property. The misery and suffering are extreme. The Sultan has sent 100 liras to the sufferers, which is being distributed mainly amongst those who give best evidence for genuine conversion.

The wife and child of the Protestant preacher (he is himself a prisoner in Ourfa), and the two young lady teachers, with some twenty other persons, had hid themselves in a cave, and were discovered and dragged out by the mob, and all the men and boys among them were killed, and the women and children carried off to Moslem houses on the backs of the Turks.

The three women mentioned were badly beaten, and attempts were made to kill the baby. For more than two weeks every effort was made to induce them to confess Islam, including threats of death, but they steadily refused, begging always to be sent back to the missionaries. At last the Government received a telegram from Aleppo, through our influence, ordering them to be sent to the missionaries in Aintab, which order was immediately carried out, and the three women reached us safely two days ago under a guard of soldiers.

There was no outrage to these women, but wedding preparations were going on, and woe would have been their fate if they had not been rescued.

Many wounded ones, half alive, were thrown into the river.

No. 282.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 181. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 9, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, giving further details with regard to the murderous attack on Armenians at Kirshehir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 282.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, March 3, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I am still, unfortunately, unable to furnish a detailed and authentic account of the incidents reported on in that despatch. This is largely owing to the fact that there is very little direct communication between this town and Kirshehir, more especially at this time of the year, when, owing to the continuous heavy falls of snow, the road is in parts almost impassable. Moreover, as I mentioned in my previous despatch, all epistolatory and telegraphic communication between Kirshehir and Angora is subjected at present to a rigorous official scrutiny, so that any offending letter or telegram is simply but quietly suppressed.

However, I have received the following account from a fairly reliable source, which (the account), as it coincides more or less with what I have heard in other quarters, bears on its face an air of probability.

There appear to be two factions among the Turks of Eskishehir, one of which is devoted to the interests of A'arifi Bey, the Mutessarif, while the other is as resolutely opposed to him, and tries persistently, by every means in its power, to have him dismissed. The latter, headed by a certain Hussein Agha, a Turkish Notable of some standing, incited a band of local ruffians to make an attack on the bazaar, kill a few Christians, and so create a disturbance, which would be to the discredit of the Mutessarif, reflecting, as it necessarily would, on his inability to keep order in the town. The plot was carried into execution on the afternoon of the 27th ultimo, the result being that some few Armenians—eight according to some accounts—only four according to others—were killed, while a number, variously estimated as three, eight, thirteen, and eighteen, are reported as wounded. The authorities are said to have shown considerable energy, and to have put a stop to a movement which might, had it not been arrested in time, so contagious is the blood-lust in such cases, have developed into a wholesale massacre. No houses appear to have been broken into, and few, if any shops were looted. The Muavin, the Vali's assistant, is to leave this for Kirshehir very shortly at the head of a Commission which is to hold an inquiry into the causes of this murderous attack, and more especially, I believe, to investigate the conduct of the Mutessarif himself, whose unpopularity throughout the district is most marked. In fact, from what I hear, I gather that the Mutessarif is a most corrupt and unscrupulous functionary, who is doing a great deal of harm in the place, and whose removal would be highly beneficial to all concerned.

This is, I regret to say, all I have been able to learn, and even so I cannot guarantee its truth or exactitude.

I will merely add that an inhabitant of Kirshehir informs me that the Armenians of that town are, on the whole, on good terms with the chief Turks, owing to the close commercial relations existing between them, so that, to put it on the lowest ground, it would not be to the advantage of the latter that the former should suffer, either in person or in pocket. He adds that he is convinced that these Turkish Notables would not allow a general massacre of Christians to take place,

and that it was, in all probability, owing as much to their interference as to anything else that the victims of the attack were, comparatively speaking, so few.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 283.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 186.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I received on the 5th ultimo from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting that owing to the intrigues of the fanatical party, the recall of Essad Bey, President of the Criminal Court of Appeal there, was imminent. Mr. Longworth further stated that his recall was most undesirable, and I caused representations to be made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, who promised to do all in his power to prevent this step being taken.

I have now received a telegram from Mr. Longworth stating that Essad Bey has been suddenly seized and dispatched to Constantinople by the Austrian steamer which left Trebizond on the 9th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, January 21, 1896.*

MY telegram of this evening will have informed your Excellency, in connection with my despatch of the 31st August, that owing to the intrigues of some fanatical Turks, Essad Bey's recall from here is imminent though undesirable, evinced, as he has, a friendly disposition towards Christians.

The affair is one that is causing no little stir at Trebizond, for, as President of the Criminal Court of Appeal, Essad Bey's position is next in importance to that of the Vali. He is admittedly a just and conscientious man, versed in the civil and religious laws of the country, and though a thorough Moslem, holds broad and enlightened views on theological dogmas.

On the day of the Greek Epiphain, a Hodja of Trebizond dropped in upon him as he was about to leave the Court. The avowed object of the visit was to make the acquaintance of the President, who perhaps rather gruffly made him understand that he was in a hurry. The Hodja asked him where he was going. Essad Bey replied that as it was a Christian holiday he was about to call on some Greek and Armenian families. The Hodja, it appears, questioned the propriety of his taking part as a good Moslem in the festivities of the infidels, and a warm altercation arose between them. The President lost patience at last, and ordered him out of the room. The man left in a huff, and went about spreading the report that Essad Bey had made use of profane language against the canonic doctors of Islam. A large meeting was held at the Fetva Khaneh to consider the matter, and it was there decided to bring his blasphemous expressions to the knowledge of the Porte through the medium of the Governor-General. The Vali yielded to the demand, and telegraphed yesterday in a manner that is likely to insure Essad Bey's removal. It is suspected that he did so more to please the Lemlizadehs than to conciliate the feelings of the Mussulmans.

However deplorable the incident may be, it is after all only a question of who is to be believed, the President or the Hodja, alone as they were in the room during the heat of the discussion. It is a charge, therefore, against Essad Bey which may be thought grave, but cannot be proved, while his recall, viewed in the light of recent events and the near approach of the Ramazan, would, I am afraid, encourage fanaticism if not malevolence towards the Christians, for this particular functionary,

more than any other, had, during the massacre, made himself most prominent in saving life and property.

I had a talk with the Vali in the above sense, and persuaded his Excellency, who now seems to regret his having referred the matter to Constantinople, to use his influence in behalf of Essad Bey should the investigation of the affair be left by the Porte in the hands of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 284.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of an article from the Turkish newspaper the "Sabah" of the 9th instant, giving a report from a local paper of the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 284.

Extract from the "Sabah" of March 9, 1896.

(Translation.)

WE take the following account of recent affairs in the Hauran from the "Syria."

A certain number of Druses in the Hauran, as well as connections of theirs residing in the nahié of Medjdel Shems and Aklim-el-Bulan near Damascus, had lately collected together and attacked Mussulman villages; moreover, their conduct had for some time past been most unsatisfactory, in fact, they were practically in a state of rebellion, and had dared to disturb public tranquillity. His Excellency Osman Nouri Pasha, the Vali, hereupon reported the state of affairs, and His Majesty was pleased to issue an Imperial Iradé directing that this band of rebels should be punished; troops were then dispatched against them.

When the division of troops arrived at Basr-ul-Harir the rebel Druses, instead of being terrified and at once laying down their arms in conformity with the Proclamation issued by the Government before the troops started, endeavoured to cut off the water of the Karasa which flows through the place just mentioned, and actually dared to assault the troops three times when these were on their way to Suveidé. They were, however, repulsed on each occasion, and finally compelled to recognize their inability to cope with the troops. When the division arrived at Suveidé the inhabitants came out to meet it, imploring the Sultan's aid and declaring their submission. This also happened at Selkhad, Ahiré, and Sheikha, and all the surrounding villages, and all forbidden arms were given up, as well as those leaders of the rebellion who, their names being known, were demanded by the Government. But the object of the expedition being to bring these people to their senses and to break the power of their Sheikhs, who are in the habit of using the common folk, ignorant and unable to discriminate between right and wrong, as tools for their own ends, a Commission for instituting the necessary reforms has been appointed, under the presidency of the new Mutessarif, Reshad Bey, and sent to the spot. Moreover, officials will be dispatched for the purpose of registering land titles and official inscriptions. Besides this, Khosnev Pasha, Commandant of the Gendarmerie in the vilayet, has made a fifteen days' tour in the district for the purpose of taking into custody all Druses guilty of crimes, as well as military deserters, and he has now returned with 81 prisoners convicted or accused of various crimes, and 277 deserters, besides having seized a quantity of prohibited arms. These have all been brought to the capital of the vilayet, as well as upwards of 300 leaders of the

rebellion and other Druses, who were all conducted under a strong military guard, to the intense satisfaction of the population who had long suffered at the hands of these individuals.

No. 285.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 153 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further details respecting the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 285.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, February* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the position of affairs at present in the Hauran are as follows:—

All the Druses in and around Suedah and Kanawat districts, including nearly all the Atrash family and the Amer family, submitted to the Ottoman Government, and accepted these terms:—

1. Surrender of Martini rifles and English [*sic*] revolvers.
2. Conscription.
3. Registration of lands according to the formalities of the Tapou.
4. Payment of taxes.

The Druses of Salkhad and the south and the east of the Jebel Druse, under the three leaders, Mohammed El-Atrash, the Sheikh of Salkhad, Mohammed Agha Nassar (who was implicated in the massacre at Rasheya in 1860), and Abu Ali Kadamani, have retired to the Tilloul-es-Safa, which lies to the north-east of the Druse Mountain, and have refused to submit to the Government.

A Commission, consisting of three members and staff, under the presidency of Reschad Bey, is now at Suedah, ostensibly for the purpose of registering landed properties; but in the present disturbed condition of the country their labours do not appear likely to meet with much success. Reshad Bey, a man of evil reputation, late Mutessarif of Hamah, is to be nominated Mutessarif of the Hauran, and Khusrev Pasha, Commandant of Gendarmerie, is appointed Acting Kaïmakam of the Druse Mountain.

In all 736 Druses have been brought prisoners to Damascus, 270 from Suedah, and the rest from the villages of Wady El-Ajam district and Jerumana, which latter village is about 3 miles from the eastern gate of this city. Among the prisoners from Jerumana was the Druse cavass of this Consulate, who was, however, liberated immediately on my representations.

Seventy old men who were among the prisoners from Suedah have been sent back, while seventy-eight have been drafted into the army in addition to the 300 concerning whom I reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 1st instant. Of the rest, some are to be tried, some are brought up that former sentences may be executed, and others are to be examined before the Redif Commission.

From Druse sources I learn that the large majority of those arrested are innocent of any offence against the Government, and are not even liable to military service, those who were the real culprits having fled to Safa.

The total loss of the Druses during the whole of these troubles amounts to 310 killed and dead of wounds; the number of wounded is not known, but nearly all those seriously wounded died. The troops lost in killed and wounded: 700 men and over 4,000 from sickness.

There has been a rumour that an amnesty was to be granted to all the Druses, and if this measure were adopted, it would probably put an end to the matter. I had waited some days before writing this despatch in the hope of being able to report the same to your Excellency, but so far the authorities have made no sign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 286.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, reporting the arrival there of the Archbishop of Erzeroum as an exile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 286.

Consul Dickson to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jerusalem, February* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mgr. Chichmanian, the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum, who has been exiled by the Porte to Jerusalem, arrived here on the 21st instant from Constantinople in charge of a Commissaire of Police and a policeman. He was immediately conducted to the Government Konak, where the same evening the Mutessarif, the Chief of the Police, and other officials deliberated as to the best arrangement to be made for his Eminence's sojourn in this city. It was finally decided that Mgr. Chichmanian should be confined in the Armenian convent at Bethlehem, which is a large and commodious building, where he will be under the surveillance of the police, but, in other respects, will be treated as one of the inmates of the building. His Eminence was accordingly sent the following morning to Bethlehem in charge of a police official, and placed in the convent in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 287.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Hampson, reporting the number of Armenians killed and converted in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 287.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, February 26, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, describing the distress in that town.

Mr. Hampson places the total, so far as it is known already, of Armenians massacred last autumn in the Bitlis Vilayet at 1,500, and of those forcibly converted to Islamism at 4,300, and he reports that the situation at Bitlis is still far from satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 287.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, February 5, 1896.

Sir,

I REGRET to report that even in this sandjak, where, owing to the greater security and the strenuous efforts of the Mutessarif, the effects of recent events have been less felt than in any other district of this vilayet, the distress is very great. In the town of Mush itself many families, both Christian and Mussulman, are suffering terribly, being without food or fire. Bread is cheap, owing to the plentiful harvest, but there is absolutely no money and no work to be found. Even the families of many of the police are starving, the Government being without the means to pay salaries. It is difficult to see how things can go on.

I am endeavouring to obtain details of the results of the recent troubles throughout the vilayet, but exact figures are hard to get, and I have not yet received reports from various outlying districts. My Tables so far show nearly 1,600 Armenians massacred and about 4,300 forcible converts to Islamism. These figures will be considerably increased when my information is complete.

I learn that many Armenians and Mussulmans of this town have petitioned the Mutessarif not to allow the Cadi to depart before paying his numerous debts. It is much to be regretted that such an official should have received another post, especially in this vilayet.

In Bitlis things still seem very unsettled. Constant attempts are made to promote further disorders, but the authorities appear to be now on their guard. Arrests of Armenians continue, and the charges against them of having originated the outbreak of the 25th October are being vigorously prosecuted. Strong endeavours are being made to implicate Mr. Knapp, a statement in that sense having been forcibly obtained from some of the prisoners. Such an accusation is entirely false, for, however much Mr. Knapp may have sympathized with the Armenians, he has certainly never encouraged sedition—even if such existed in Bitlis, which is very doubtful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 288.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 194.)

Constantinople, March 12, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the measures taken for the protection of American missionaries, all of whom appear to be British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 288.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, February 28, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the United States' Minister, that the Vali informed me yesterday that he had received instructions to take such measures as he thought fit to insure the safety of the lives and property of American citizens, and that he was prepared to furnish a special guard for the Rev. W. N. Chambers, missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission, if he would provide a room in his house for their shelter.

At the time of the disorders in this town last autumn soldiers were, at my request, posted at Mr. Chambers' residence, at each of the American school buildings, and at the houses of the two Dragomans of this Consulate, all of which are situated within a stone's throw of each other.

When things quieted down the ten soldiers thus employed were, at my suggestion, withdrawn from these houses because I considered their presence tended to prevent the desired restoration of confidence in the minds of the panic-stricken population.

But, as that quarter of the town was the one that had been the most exposed to the excesses committed by the artillerymen then quartered in the neighbouring barracks, I persuaded the military authorities to establish a special guard-house in a building having a central position as regards the above-mentioned houses and ten soldiers have been stationed there since, with one of their number always standing sentinel outside.

As there appears to be no imminent danger of a recurrence of disorders in this town, and as it is inconvenient to Mr. Chambers to have a file of soldiers living in his house, I have settled with the Vali that, in view of the fresh instructions he has received, it will be sufficient if a Lieutenant were placed in charge of the guard with instructions to act immediately on any emergency arising.

Mr. Chambers is the only American missionary here and is a British subject. He is, however, shortly to be joined by Mr. Macnaughten, also a British subject, who will reside with him.

The special guards told off to protect the Consulates were withdrawn, with the consent of my colleagues and myself, over three months ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 289.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 195. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 12, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo reporting on the situation of Christians in Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 289.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Aleppo, February 27, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 24th instant, and to my answer of the following day, I have the honour to report that the Russian Consul has not yet made any representation to Raif Pasha respecting the critical situation of the Christians in Aintab.

I must add that in my interview with him concerning this affair I found him

rather embarrassed to take a decision being, from what I could understand, of opinion that, under the present circumstances, such representations here are useless, and that they would obtain a better effect if they were made to the Porte by the Embassies in Constantinople.

According to my information from different sources, the Christians of Aintab are very alarmed by the fact that the local authorities while effecting continual arrests of Armenians on vague accusations of being connected with the last disturbances there, or with the insurrection of Zeitoun, on the other hand, not a single Moslem has, so far, been imprisoned, encouraging thus these latter to repeat again the butchery of the Christians.

I need not state that, if stronger measures are not taken by the Central Government of Constantinople with a view to inflict an immediate and exemplary punishment to all the culprits, "without distinction of rank and religion," further disturbances will soon occur not only in Aintab, but in Marash and Ourfa also.

With respect to the Armenian prisoners from Aintab, mentioned in my despatch of the 25th January last, notwithstanding the reiterated promises of his Excellency the Vali of Aleppo that justice will soon be rendered to them, they are still kept in prison without trial, under the pretence that the witnesses have not yet arrived from Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI,

P.S.—I learn that the Kaïmakam and the Cadi of Aintab have been ordered to come to Aleppo.

A. C.

No. 290.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 196.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting the assassination of two Christians there by Moslems.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Consul R. Drummond-Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, March* 1, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that fanaticism amongst Moslems which had been dormant for some months has now reawakened.

Respectable Christians have been assaulted and fired at in the public thoroughfares of this town in broad daylight, and quite lately several inoffensive persons were attacked at night and two of them killed.

This incident occurred opposite my residence.

I was attracted by the pistol shots in time to view one of the victims stagger and fall as he was attempting to escape.

The authorities acted with promptitude and arrested eleven Moslems, of whom I believe about seven were implicated in the affair.

The two victims, who belong to respectable Greek Orthodox and Maronite families, were strolling on the quay with other friends when they were assaulted.

It is believed that the object of the Moslems was to take the life of the "Orthodox" Kosta Pauli, a man noted for his physical strength and courage, which he frequently employed in the defence of his co-religionists when illtreated by Moslems. His friend Yussuf Hani was related to one of the first Maronite families in Beyrout of the same name.

Their respective funerals were attended by several thousand persons and were the occasion for noisy demonstrations, which might have led to serious consequences if the authorities had not guarded the cortège with troops.

I beg to submit to your Excellency that it is of vital importance for the maintenance of public peace that the trial and condemnation of the criminals should be carried out with the least possible delay.

The families of the victims would otherwise be led to believe that justice is not forthcoming, and might take the law into their own hands by resorting to acts of revenge.

Procrastination of justice would also embolden Mussulmans and have a bad effect not only in Beyrout but throughout Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 291.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 23 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a précis translation, drawn up by Mr. Douglass, of an article in the "Moscow Viedomosti" of the 10th instant, drawing attention to the danger arising from the separatist and revolutionary tendencies of the Armenians in the Caucasian provinces.

As I stated in my above-mentioned despatch, the state of affairs in those provinces is a continual source of anxiety to the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 291.

Précis of Extract from the "Moscow Viedomosti" of March 10, 1896.

(Translation.)

THE "Moscow Viedomosti" considers it established beyond doubt that "political murders" have been committed by Armenians of the Caucasus, and that the Russians, who have worked for the Russian cause in those districts, are signalled out for revenge, and live in continual danger of their lives.

But even if the political character of these crimes has not been officially proved, there remains enough evidence to show that the state of affairs in the Caucasus is far from satisfactory.

To appreciate this, one need only take into consideration the fact that 75 to 90 per cent. of the Caucasian administration is in the hands of Armenians, who cherish hopes of a "Greater Armenia," and are stimulated by foreign agitators, while the handful of Russian officials occupy a most humiliating position towards the local population.

We do not exaggerate when we say that we have managed, somehow, to create for ourselves a second Finland in the Caucasus. Of course, the Armenian patriots are not yet so far advanced as to draw up a Constitution for themselves, but they are already forging historical documents in order to take Russian church lands for the use of Armenian convents.

The question naturally arises, what will happen in a frontier district that openly professes separatist tendencies, and whose administration is almost exclusively in the hands of natives? How comes it that hardly any steps have hitherto been taken to prevent this attempt at independence on the part of our frontier provinces, that have been bought with streams of Russian blood?

No. 292.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 17, 1896, 12·40 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Jeddah telegraphs to me, under date of the 10th March, as follows:—

"In accordance with the instructions contained in your Excellency's telegrams of the 14th and 15th instant, to-day being the first day of Baïram, and the Vali not having paid a visit, my Russian and French colleagues and myself have abstained in concert from performing usual acts of official courtesy, including the hoisting of our flags.

"In order that our action might not be misunderstood, we communicated our reasons unofficially to the Kaimakam, who telegraphed to the Governor-General.

"We propose to abstain from hoisting our flags during all the three days of Baïram."

No. 293.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 18.)

Downing Street, March 18, 1896.

Sir,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople regarding the emigration of Armenians from the region of Erzeroum.

I am to request you to inform the Marquess of Salisbury that a copy of your letter and of its inclosures has been sent to the High Commissioner of Cyprus, who has been desired to furnish Mr. Chamberlain, as soon as possible, with his observations on the suggestion that some of the emigrants should be received in Cyprus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 294.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 19, 1896, 7·20 P.M.

A TELEGRAM has been communicated to me by the French Embassy, which they have received from their Consular Agent at Alexandretta, stating that the tow is in a state of panic, caused by a quarrel between Turks and English sailors.

No. 295.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 19, 1896, 2·30 P.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice at Ourfa:—

"Your Excellency's telegram of 17th March.

"I have terminated my inquiry.

"It is impossible to make an accurate calculation of the loss of life. In the massacres of the 28th and 29th December about 8,000 Armenians, mostly males, perished here. This estimate includes some 3,000 who were killed and burnt in the cathedral.

"The conversions to Mahommedanism numbered over 400.

"I am ready to proceed to Aleppo, subject to your Excellency's instructions, viâ Adiaman."

No. 296.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 19, 1896, 7·30 P.M.

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs from Moush to-day that the authorities are seeking for evidence against many leading inhabitants, including his Dragoman and Vicar Vartan, and that four more Armenians have been arrested there on a charge of having belonged to the revolutionary Committee.

Mr. Hampson adds that it is very regrettable that the tranquillity should be seriously endangered by the revival of these old charges, as no one is accused of fresh intrigues.

No. 297

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of a notice which has appeared in the Turkish papers of the 9th instant, stating that orders have been given for the formation of Turkish Relief Commissions in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Extract from the "Terjuman-i-Hakikat" of March 9, 1896.

(Translation.)

A COMMISSION had been formed at Constantinople, under the presidency of His Imperial Majesty, for the purpose of collecting funds for sufferers from the recent disturbances in the Anatolian vilayets, and also for repairing the places of worship which had been destroyed. The Minister of the Interior has now sent telegraphic orders to the Vali of Aleppo to form similar Commissions throughout the vilayet without delay, and a Commission has accordingly been formed at Aleppo itself under the general presidency of Shefik Bey, the Mektoubji of the vilayet, and the necessary orders have been given for similar Commissions to be formed throughout the vilayet.

No. 298.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 20, 1896, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 103 of the 18th March, information has been received from the French Consul that Alexandretta is now tranquil.

No. 299.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 192.)

Pera, March 12, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 164 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul Acting at Erzeroum on the subject of the opposition of Zekki Pasha to any proceedings against the Kurds.

I am bringing these facts to the knowledge of the French and Russian Embassies, and have instructed Mr. Block to make representations on the subject and invite his French and Russian colleagues to join him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 299.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Erzeroum, February 25, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant, I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday that I had that day been informed, on good authority, that obstacles were being placed by Zekki Pasha against any action being taken against the Kurds in general, and that he is the cause of the delay in the legal proceedings, urgently demanded by both Shakir Pasha and the Vali, against Hussein Pasha of Patnotz, Emin Pasha, and Tamir Pasha, the three notorious Kurdish Chiefs who were summoned to Erzeroum last December, and have since been detained here to be tried for their participation in the excesses of last autumn, as reported in my despatches of the 11th and 24th December.

These men have evidently found a powerful friend in the person of the Commander-in-Chief of the IVth Army Corps, and unless pressure is brought to bear on the Sublime Porte, there is every chance of their escaping punishment for their well-known misdeeds, and their evasion of justice will not fail to encourage a recurrence of Kurdish raids in the future.

I would further suggest the advisability of their trial, if finally decided upon, taking place at the capital, because Zekki Pasha's influence will be sure to be brought to bear on the members of the Court to procure their acquittal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 300.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 198.)

Pera, March 13, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of letters from Mardin and Aintab which have been communicated to me by Mr. Peet of the Bible-house.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 300.

Memorandum.

TIME, Tuesday, 31st December, 1895, just one hour before sunset.

Who? Two members of the Edaret Mejliss were commissioned by the Mutessarif Wakeel to summon the Bishops of the various Christian communities and the Protestant Millet Wakeel. They all assembled at the room of the Papal Armenian Bishop.

What? The members of the Edaret then produced a telegram prepared by the special Commissioners from the Palace, Sami Effendi, Abd Ullah Pasha, &c., and the Vali, Annees Pasha, to be signed immediately by the religious heads so that the telegram would be struck that evening. All were ready to die rather than testify that the Armenians were responsible for all the killing, plunder, vandalism, and burning which had taken place in the vilayet. They were then threatened to this effect, that in case they should refuse to seal the telegram as it was prepared to be sent, the whole city would be given to plunder as had happened elsewhere! They then said that they could not be responsible for so much loss of life, destruction of property, and consequent misery as would certainly follow upon such a step.

Two years ago, while Annees Pasha was still Mutessarif of Mardin, the market called "Kaiserea" was set fire to and pillaged in the melee. He shielded those who did the deed, and broke up every attempt of the Christians to make complaint. Those near him fattened on the spoils. He came to this place with five loads, and left it with fifty. He is from Salonica, and there has always been a strong suspicion that he was somehow implicated in the murder of the two Consuls there some years ago, so that it was considered prudent to send him out of Europe. My own private opinion is that his continuance in Diarbekir and that of the Commissioners there bodes no good to this city nor to this vilayet.

Mardin, January 21, 1896.

Inclosure 2 in No. 300.

Letter dated Mardin, January 27, 1896.

IF I can do so, I wish to send you the first instalment of reports of distribution, and also accounts for the same. Relief work is increasing. Harpoot has asked us to get relief for them to Mia Farkin and Redwan, and we have sent £ T. 35 to the former place, while the preacher of the latter place is now in Midyat, and we have organized a Sub-Committee there which will take his lists and supply him with funds for clothing, bedding, and food. These are first distributions, as we think it wise not to deal out amounts for the more distant places to exceed a month's supply, while for the nearer places we furnish only for a period of two weeks. I would like to ask here whether we may be allowed to use some of these funds for those who are suffering for food, though not of the number of the plundered, owing to the utter stagnation in work for day labourers, and in the lines of artisanship and trade? Another reason for increasing straitness is the fact that no Christian can be sure of his personal safety if he attempts to go down among the Arabs on the plain for the purpose of trade, nor if he attempts to go about for the same reason among the Kurds in the mountains. Their creditors are largely among the Arabs and Kurds, so no bills can be collected any more than goods can be sold. Moreover, the enmity of the Kurds, especially towards the Christians, has been greatly increased owing to the course of the Government to an almost abortive attempt to recover from the Kurds goods they have plundered from the Christian villages. The Kurds were in most instances most cruelly treated in order to extort the goods from them, and the immoral soldiers took large liberties with their wives and daughters. The Kurds now say that they have suffered all these things on account of the Christians! They are accordingly very bitter against them, and also against the Government which inflicted them.

Last Saturday we learned that cholera had broken out among the refugees massed in the monastery, Mar Kriarkos, which is a little to the left of the main road between Diarbekir and Sert, and not quite two-thirds of the way to Sert. They are dying at the rate of fifty a-day. We informed the Syrian Patriarch that we wished to get aid to them, and he replied that in the Bishopric of Mar Kriarkos there were more than 1,500 families of his Church plundered, and refugees, of whom between 2,000 and 3,000 are in the

monastery. But he wished us to send him what we proposed to give them for him to distribute! We have written him (he is in Diarbekir) that we are willing he should appoint two from his community to serve with our Sub-Committee, and asked for certified lists of the suffering families in the Bishopric of Mar Kriarkos. Cholera has appeared also at Sert. The situation is easier here in the city, the guards are not relaxed, and our premises still quarter a company of soldiers. The roads are more open, but travel is made with trepidation. Our new Mutessarif has not yet arrived. It is said the Commissioners from the Palace are to go to Ourfa to inquire into the late outbreak there. The post from the south is nine days over due, and the wires are down, so there is no news in regard to it. We suspect the high waters from recent rains are not the only reasons for its delay. Possibly Persia is seizing the opportunity to possess the Kerbela, the shrine of Hassan and Hussein.

Mardin, February 4, 1896.

I send herewith expense account of 500*l.* sent to us by you from the Armenian Relief Fund, together with detailed lists, copied from the Arabic, which have been made out and certified either by our Mardin Committee or by the Sub-Committees which we have organized in Diarbekir, Farkin, Redwan, and Midyat. I do not expect to report to you except as we shall receive the certified lists in accordance with which distribution shall have been made. For this reason, you observe, that we have at this date reported but little more than half of the actual distribution already made. We wish to do more, but the state of the country, the bitterness of the weather (unusual cold, wind, and snow), and the great distances we are trying to cover, make the work difficult and slow.

Yesterday your telegram, dated the 22nd January (old style), arrived—*mirabile dictu*—in the afternoon, 4 o'clock, of the same day. You notify us that we may draw 800*l.* in addition to the 500*l.* already appropriated. We have sent sums to Farkin, Redwan, and Sert, the drafts for which on us have not yet come in.

We shall shortly be doing more in Diarbekir, and here also when the lists shall have been carefully certified and completed. We take great pains in making these up. The artisan class, petty traders, and brokers among Arabs and Kurds, are already beginning to feel the pinch of poverty and suffering occasioned by late events and the present prevalent insecurity.

The Government is fond of telegraphing to Constantinople "Asaiish ber kamal" (perfect quietness). It is anything but true. Must this aid be confined to the plundered?

Yours truly,

Inclosure 3 in No. 300.

Letter dated Aintab, February 6, 1896.

THE £ T. 100 which you desired me to send to Ourfa for the Gregorian Armenians has reached Miss Shattuck, and she writes that the Bishop desires her to keep it a little while for him. As soon as he needs it she will pay it and take a receipt. The other £ T. 50 I will send soon. For reasons, which you will understand, they prefer that there should not be much money reach them by post at present. Mr. Sanders is now at Ourfa. He reports a terrible state of things at Adiaman, nearly every Christian house plundered, and the Christians reduced to beggary. Moslems give food rather freely, so that if one does not object to begging he need not starve. Money at present cannot be used for them to any great extent, as Moslems are on the look out and ready to repeat the robbery if any Christian is seen to have anything. Clearly it is a case of deliberate purpose to break and enslave the Christian. Mr. Sanders has not yet been to Severek, but the case is no better there. The demand that Christians become Moslems is being relentlessly pressed in all the region east and north of here, and recently in Aintab even it is becoming common. Our Governor and other prominent Moslems have told several Christians within a few days that the only security for life and property now is by becoming Moslem. For the past two days there has been a perfect panic in this city, and many Christians have been told that before Saturday the business in Aintab would be finished. On the other hand, the Mir Alai has 3,000 soldiers, and steadily and emphatically assures us that his orders are to protect the Christians, and that he will not suffer them to be further molested. It is a most fearful strain our Christian people are under, and I cannot but admire their courage. New arrests are being made daily. The relief

work is still carried on vigorously and most harmoniously by a joint Committee of Gregorians and Protestants.

The following is the revised statement they have just issued of losses, &c.:—

	From Protestants.	From Gregorians.
Amount of property destroyed and stolen ...	8,325,216 pias.	7,301,273 pias.
Houses and shops looted	545	765
" " burnt	22	8
Persons killed	91	309
" wounded	75	137
" now receiving aid from the Committee	1,355	2,324

Aintab, February 13, 1896.

Our relief work in Aintab is working well, only with this continued state of things the number of hungry ones is sadly increasing. The Government, of course, does nothing but demand taxes and special contributions. I have paid out from the funds you have sent me £ T. 300, plus £ T. 500, in all £ T. 800. Less than 100 liras for Aintab. I hope that £ T. 25 a week will keep the sufferers alive till a change comes. In Ourfa the case seems to be more desperate, as Mr. Sanders has written you. Severek and Adiaman are only partially accessible for aid as yet, but there is no doubt the need is extreme. How glad we are to see signs of coming spring and warm weather.

No. 301.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 206. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 181 of the 9th March, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora confirming the reported attack on Armenians at Kirshehir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 301.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, March* 10, 1896.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I am now in a position to confirm the truth of the statements made in that despatch, which would appear to be in the main correct. The attack was made by a band of young ruffians at the instigation of Hussein Agha, with a view to the creation of a disturbance with which, it was hoped, the authorities would not be able successfully to cope. It appears that the Armenians had got wind of the plot some few days before it was actually put into execution; because M. Levitsky, the Russian Consul at Koniah, who has just arrived here from Cæsarea and Kirshehir, tells me that, when he was in the latter town on his way to Cæsarea, several Armenians came and made known their fears to him, begging him to interfere in their behalf. M. Levitsky thereupon had an interview with the Mutessarif, A'arifi Bey, and requested him to take all the necessary steps for the protection of the Armenian community in case any attempt were made to attack them. The Mutessarif, however, made light of the matter, and assured M. Levitsky that there was no probability whatever of such an occurrence, and, in fact, so convinced does he appear to have been of the truth of this statement, that he authorized, very shortly afterwards, the disbandment of the troops which had hitherto garrisoned the town! Four days later the attack was made.

M. Levitsky informs me that four Armenians were killed and nine wounded, but the lives of two of the latter, he asserts, are now despaired of, one being quite a young boy. Amongst the killed was a man of some position, an Assessor of the Court of First Instance. The re-establishment of order was, in large measure, due to the prompt and energetic action of the Mayor (President of the Municipality), who, aided by a body of zaptichs, arrested the murderers in time to prevent the movement reaching very serious proportions.

I am now informed that there is no intention, at all events for the present, of sending a Commission of Inquiry from here to Kirshehir, it being considered in the highest circles that the local authorities of that town are fully competent to deal with the case. In view of the fact that the origin of this disturbance is in reality to be attributed to the existence in Kirshehir of two mutually opposed factions, as explained in my previous despatch, I cannot but think that the result of an inquiry would have been of a more satisfactory nature, had those deputed to make it been entirely unconnected with, and, therefore, the less likely to be biassed by local jealousies and intrigues. I am inclined to believe that the Vali is in reality of this opinion, but that he has been overruled from Constantinople.

Be that as it may, an inquiry is being held on the spot, which has resulted so far in the arrest and imprisonment of some twenty persons.

In conclusion, I would mention that M. Levitsky informs me that the road between Kirshehir and Cæsarea is overrun by marauders, who are committing every kind of depredation, without apparently running any risk whatever of interference on the part of the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 302.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Pera, March* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 147 of the 21st February, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo respecting a Petition presented by the Armenian prisoners at Aintab to the Vali of Aleppo.

I have suggested to the other Embassies that the Petition might be brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and I have instructed Mr. Block to continue to protest against the great injustice inflicted on the prisoners in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 302.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, February* 29, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's consideration, a letter from the Armenian Bishop of Aleppo, accompanying a copy of a Petition presented by the prisoners of Aintab to his Excellency the Vali of Aleppo, which, it seems, has not been taken into consideration by the Procureur-Général of this vilayet.

In visiting lately his Excellency Raif Pasha, I inquired whether it was true that the Procureur-Général had made the apostil (Derkenar) alleged by the petitioners. His Excellency has denied the fact, adding that the affair is *en règle*, and changed at once the conversation.

In my opinion, Raif Pasha acts in the matter on private instructions from Constantinople, and against his own conviction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 302.

The Armenian Bishop of Aleppo to Acting Consul Catoni.

M. le Consul, *Alep, le* 16 (28) *Février*, 1896.

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous remettre ci-joint copie et traduction d'une Pétition adressée au vilayet par les vingt-cinq Notables de notre communauté d'Aintab arrêtés dans la prison de cette ville.

Nous nous permettons d'attirer votre haute attention tant sur les justes plaintes et revendications des pétitionnaires que spécialement sur l'apostille apposée par le Procureur-Général au verso de la susdite Pétition, laquelle celui-ci rejette catégoriquement, le recours des pétitionnaires en invoquant un ordre supérieur, disant qu'il n'était chargé que d'établir la nature et l'espèce des accusations portées à la charge des pétitionnaires par les autorités d'Aintab, se bornant de faire une enquête contre les Arméniens, s'abstenant d'entrer dans d'autres investigations ou matières.

Nous osons espérer, M. le Consul, que votre haute équité et la justice universellement connue de votre honorable Gouvernement ne permettront pas à ce que ces vingt-cinq victimes du despotisme soient l'objet d'une pareille fin de non recevoir, illégale et unique, à la fin d'un siècle qui a aboli, partout, l'arbitraire et fait triompher le droit par une équitable application de la loi.

Permettez-nous d'attirer aussi votre haute attention, M. le Consul, tant sur les nouvelles arrestations à Aintab des cinquante-cinq personnes de notre communauté, et parmi celles-ci quelques dames, prétend-t-on, que sur les démonstrations comminatoires dont toute notre communauté d'Aintab est journellement l'objet de la part de la population Musulmane, qui cherche par tous les moyens à forcer nos coreligionnaires à émigrer, leur faisant entrevoir l'impossibilité d'un *modus vivendi* chez elle.

Nous ne doutons pas, M. le Consul, que votre honorable Gouvernement voudra bien prendre en considération les actes arbitraires illégaux, et contraires aux droits des gens dont notre communauté est victime, et que la haute intervention des Puissances Chrétiennes pourra immédiatement arrêter ce courant d'iniquité qui complète l'anihilissement de cette communauté digne de compassion.

En vous anticipant l'expression de notre plus vive gratitude et de celle de toute la nation Arménienne, nous avons, &c.
(Signé) BEDROS VARTABED NERGARARIAN.

P.S.—L'apostille du Procureur-Général n'ayant pas été communiquée aux accusés défendeurs, il n'a été possible que d'en donner le résumé.

B. V. N.

Inclosure 3 in No. 302.

Petition.

(Traduction.)
DEPUIS quelques jours nous avons été transférés de la prison d'Aintab à celle d'Alep.

A Aintab, pendant que nous subissions matin et soir la surveillance des autorités civiles et militaires qui nous avaient emprisonné pour des motifs à nous inconnus, nous ignorions que le Juge d'Instruction et sa suite, envoyés à cet effet par le vilayet instrumentaient à notre insu, en nous calomniant de forfaits qu'ils nous importaient.

Cependant ici, et par les actes d'accusations dressés contre nous et d'autres pièces judiciaires qu'on remet au fur et à mesure à chacun de nous, nous commençons à comprendre que nous avons été jetés en prison et accusés d'assassinats et de blessures sur les données des chefs qui ont commandé et encouragé ceux qui n'ont pas hésité à massacrer nos pères, nos frères, et nos autres parents, à saccager nos maisons, à incinérer les cadavres de nos parents massacrés, et à pillor tout ce que nous possédions. Ceux qui quelques jours avant l'émeute et le massacre n'ont pas hésité à fomenter les troubles, et inciter aux forfaits par des placards affichés en faisant venir à la ville les bandits des villages, et par mille autres mesures, ainsi que sur les données de l'agent de police qui le jour du massacre se faisait un devoir d'exciter les émeutiers, et de les conseiller par des cris répétés, en leur disant textuellement: "Tuez d'abord, ensuite vous aurez tout le temps pour vous approprier du butin," lequel agent de police a commis le plus grand vol dans le pillage.

Il est notoire et connu par votre auguste Excellence que dans des cas des crimes ne font foi que la victime et les conséquences des crimes commis sur celle-ci, c'est-à-dire, qu'il est nécessaire de constater la présence du corps de l'assassinée avec les causes de sa mort, quand il s'agit de meurtre, et la présence du corps blessé, s'il s'agit de blessure. Or, dans l'espèce, il est injuste que nous soyons accusés des crimes qu'on nous impute du moment que les victimes de ces crimes n'ont jamais existé.

En effet, nous pourrons démontrer et porter à l'évidence que la calomnie dont nous sommes les victimes est absolument injuste, car il est prouvé par des pièces officielles, et par tout autre moyen, que parmi les 500 Chrétiens environ qui ont été tués et massacrés, et les 350 blessés qui ont été soignés, et qui se soignent encore dans l'hôpital des Américains à Aintab, il n'existe pas un seul Musulman, et que les 500 maisons et 1,000 boutiques environ qui ont été pillées et saccagées à Aintab, appartiennent toutes aux Chrétiens, et que pas un seul bien de Musulman n'a été ravi.

Il est aussi à remarquer que ce que nous venons d'avancer, n'est pas le résultat d'un faux témoignage comme celui qu'on se sert contre nous, pour nous accuser, mais tout cela vous sera prouvé par les ruines, et les débris qu'on pourrait voir et palper.

Un coup d'œil sur la situation prouverait, Excellence, que c'est nous qui sommes les victimes, et qu'au lieu de nous restituer les biens qui nous ont été enlevés, et qui s'élèvent à des centaines de millions de livres, au lieu de punir ceux des Musulmans qui ont pillé et massacré, et leur faire subir la punition qu'ils avaient dû encourir pour les forfaits et les atrocités qu'ils ont commis, ceux-là jouissent d'une parfaite impunité tandis qu'on nous accuse de crimes, et on nous fait subir un horrible emprisonnement, moyennant de faux témoignages et mille autres procédés, les uns plus faux que les autres.

Cette manière d'agir étant contraire à la volonté de notre auguste Souverain, et à la haute équité qui le caractérise, nous prions humblement votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire comparaître devant elle afin que nous puissions lui donner tous les détails et les explications pour la convaincre de notre innocence.

Nous prions en même temps votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner des ordres nécessaires à qui de droit, afin que les éléments de l'enquête qu'elle voudra bien diriger pour rechercher la justice dans cette malheureuse affaire soient puisés de personnes absolument dignes de foi, et exemptes de l'influence et des intrigues de ceux qui par de faux témoignages nous accusent, et ne cesseront d'intriguer contre nous.

Toros Leilekian, Kevork Leilekian, Artin Nazaretian, Garabet Nazaretian, Artin Bochkezenian, Kissak Arslanian, Mouses Hekimian, Acob Babikian, Mouses Babikian, Babik Babikian, Garabet Eghiaian, Cricor et Acob Cabakian, Beniamin Antonian, Avedis Hassuiyian, Acob Arakelian, Dr. Iskender Ovaynes Djebedjian, Mouses et Kevork Chamcian, Garabet Barsoumian, Sarkis Boudjakdjian, Anlin Mikoelian, Kevork Gakhoudian, Toros Mékikdjian.

Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général ayant transmis au Procureur-Général la Pétition qui lui a été présentée par les détenus, comme sous la dénomination d'accusés à Aintab, le susdit Procureur-Général déclare que n'étant chargé que de faire l'enquête que les autorités lui indiqueraient la nature, dans l'espèce ces autorités ne l'ayant requis de s'enquérir sur les imputations portées à charge des Arméniens, il se borna à se conformer à cette injonction sans s'occuper d'autres investigations.

Le 18 Janvier, 1896.

No. 303.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 209.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reporting the unsatisfactory condition of the district and complaining of the incapacity of the Military Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, February* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the unsatisfactory position of things in that town and district.

Mr. Hampson, whilst praising the conduct of the Governor, reports that a few Mussulmans have been arrested for attempting to provoke further disorders, and he adds that the incapacity of the Military Commander, Rahmi Pasha, is an element of danger.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 303.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, January* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mutessarif has, during the last few days, arrested some twelve Mussulmans who, some by open threats, some in the guise of friendly warnings, had been telling the Armenians that it was unsafe for them to go to the bazaar or open their shops, that a massacre was imminent, &c. The effect of this energetic step will, I have no doubt, be excellent, and there is already a marked change in the language of the Turks, who see that the Mutessarif is awake to the means by which they keep alive the panic here and work to promote further disorders. I fear, however, that the moving spirits in these designs are to be found among the higher official and influential classes, who, for their own ends, have promulgated, and continue to promulgate, these threats, and that the arrest of some of their tools will have but little effect on the real sources of danger.

The numerous patrols about the town are sufficient proof that the authorities still fear further outbreaks. The Mutessarif, while declaring his ability to cope with any act of fanaticism on the part of the civil population, expressed to me, in confidence, his great uneasiness with regard to the military forces under the command of Rahmi Pasha, who is fanatical, incapable, almost in his dotage, and hostile to the Mutessarif. The soldiers may at any moment start a massacre which it will be beyond the latter's power to control. He is evidently much disturbed about this danger.

Meanwhile, by his just and firm administration, he is winning more and more the confidence of all who really wish for order and prosperity. He appears much relieved at the removal of the Cadi, and is very anxious for the arrival of the Judicial Inspectors; but he is not sanguine as to the future, and admits that he sees little hope of any permanent reforms being introduced unless they are preceded by many radical changes. He complains bitterly that his representations both to the Porte and to the Vali at Bitlis receive no attention, or, at least, no intelligent attention, and that he is practically nothing but an agent at the end of a telegraph wire. I feel confident that if he were allowed more initiative to act on his own responsibility, and given more real power, there would shortly be little to complain of in the administration of this sandjak. A *sine qua non*, however, is that the Military Commander should either be an enlightened and intelligent officer, who would heartily co-operate with the Mutessarif, or should receive orders to comply at once with his demands. Rahmi Pasha does neither. A terrible difficulty is the absolute bankruptcy of the Government, the pay of officials, soldiers, and police being many months in arrear, and the Central Government continually demanding money; and, as the Mutessarif justly says, to press the villagers for taxes now is only to complete the ruin.

In the course of conversation, I mentioned to Feham Pasha the question of the Hamidié Cavalry, and asked him what, in his opinion, was the best way of dealing with them. He said that he considers that to disband them now would only cause further difficulties. They could be kept in perfect control under two conditions. The first of these is provided for in the accepted reforms, viz., that, except when actually on military service, they should be amenable to civil jurisdiction. The second condition is, that each tribe of any importance should form one regiment, and one regiment only. Half the disorders which now arise among the Kurds are due to the jealousies and disputes between the two or three Colonels and superior officers in each tribe.

From other sandjaks of this vilayet—Bitlis, Sairt, and Guendj—I continue to hear bad accounts: whole districts forcibly converted to Islamism, monasteries and churches in the possession of the Sheikhs and Mollahs, many Armenians dying of starvation, and general terrorism. That, in spite of all opposition and of continuous panic, the sandjak of Mush is, comparatively speaking, quiet, and the Christian population unpersecuted, is a strong proof of the good qualities and energy of the Mutessarif.

As has been so often said, it is not so much different laws as different men to administer the existing laws that are required in these regions. It seems to me that here, for once, the right man has been found. But he must be given the power to act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 304.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting the exultant state of Mussulman feeling in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, March* 3, 1896.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 3rd December last, relative to the state of public feeling in this city, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that till lately there has been a very strong undercurrent of dissatisfaction with and disaffection to the Sultan among the better class of Moslems here. Recent events have, however, somewhat modified this sentiment. The Moslems have seen, as they believe, that the Sultan is strong enough to defy the European Powers, while at the same time the expedition against the Druses, which in their eyes is a war of the first magnitude, has been brought to a successful conclusion, and they have been permitted to exult over some hundreds of prisoners led in triumph through the streets. These things are a source of immense satisfaction to them, and, pitiful as the latter spectacle was, there is no doubt that the Vali was well advised, from the point of view of the Ottoman Government, in granting an opportunity to public feeling to vent itself in that manner.

For some time past there has been but one inquiry in Moslem circles: What are the Powers going to do with reference to Armenia? And now the people are lost in astonishment that no punishment has been meted out to those responsible for those crimes. And I believe that it is not only astonishment that they feel, but also a kind of jealousy, for they remember how severe a retribution followed on the massacres of 1860, and they do not consider it fair that others should be allowed to commit the same or worse outrages with impunity.

The upshot of the whole business is that the Sultan has been greatly magnified in their sight, and though they have still the same causes for dissatisfaction with the Government, they have begun to take a pride in the success which has attended the policy of His Imperial Majesty. They also feel that the one great restraining force which has always hung as a shadow over them, and has kept them in bounds in their dealings with Christians, namely, the fear of European intervention, has been removed; and it is to be apprehended that under certain conditions the consequences of this change of sentiment may prove disastrous.

The civil officials and the junior officers of the army are very discontented on account of the non-payment of their salaries, and an officer informed me yesterday that, if matters

continued in their present course, they would be forced to resign their commissions *en masse* as they are unable to live.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 305.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 211.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Consular Agent at Mosul giving a summary of Mosul news.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

Sir, *Mosul, February* 5, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Walaiat received a telegram last week from the Grand Vizier intimating that an Imperial Rescript has been issued for collection of subscription from all Turkish subjects for the sufferers in the occurrences which took place in Anatolia and for restoration of places of worship which were demolished there. The rate at which the subscription will be collected is from ½ medjidieh to £T. 1. He who shall pay £ T. 10 will get a medal. Owing to that telegram his Excellency is engaged in forming a Commission for collection of the said subscription from the inhabitants.

His Excellency, in his exertions for maintaining tranquillity and security in this vilayet, called up about fifteen soldiers from the regular troops in this place who were proved to be bad characters, whom he has sent away on raft as prisoners to be sent to Nedjd.

His Excellency summoned the Kaïmakam of the district of Dhok, Muhammad Effendi, son of Ibrahim Effendi-el-Mufti, and advised him to send in his resignation, but he refused to comply, upon which his Excellency dismissed him and committed him to trial for the bribes he had received during tenure of office, and appointed a temporary Agent in his place. It is rumoured that his Excellency has also summoned Mustapha Selim Effendi, Kaïmakam of Amadieh, for bad conduct; he will also be treated like the Kaïmakam of Dhok.

A Commission has since been formed some days ago in the Department of the Sanich (lands presided over by his Excellency) for collecting contributions from the inhabitants for supplying water to the town by means of pipes and its distribution to muhallahs and houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. RASSAM.

No. 306.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 212.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the deplorable state of affairs in Cæsarea and district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, March* 11, 1896.

I LEARN from various reliable sources that the general state of things in Cæsarea is deplorable. Trade is practically at a standstill, only seventy shops belonging to Christians being reported as open at present, whereas, before the massacre, it is calculated that there were 1,800 Christian shopkeepers in that town. Even those who go to their shops keep them open for only two or three hours daily; just long enough, in fact, to make some small profit which will insure them and their families their daily bread, anything beyond that being not even thought of. Everywhere may be seen evidence of the greatest privation and distress. This is not only the case in Cæsarea itself, but in the surrounding villages, the inhabitants of fifteen of which were stripped at the time of the massacre of everything they possessed: their winter grain and other stores, live stock, cooking utensils, and even small articles of furniture—a clean sweep was made of everything. All these unfortunate creatures are now reduced to the greatest straits, many of them being on the verge of starvation. The American missionaries are doing good work in the distribution of money and flour, but they find it exceedingly difficult to keep pace with the daily increasing distress and privation which surround them on every side. I submit herewith an extract from a letter recently received from one of these gentlemen :—

"We are doing what we can in the way of relief work, and find the needs increasingly great. As yet, I think there has been no actual starvation in this region, but very many are next door to it. The destitution is almost as great in other villages as in those that have been plundered. Business intercommunication between towns and villages is at a standstill. The next month will be a hard one for us all. I am sending to-day, through Mr. Whittall, of Stamboul, a report of the amount spent since November, *i.e.*, some 350*l.* In flour and money we have about 500*l.* more in hand. For the better distribution of these funds we tried to form a Committee of Gregorians and Protestants to assist us, but the Gregorians were afraid to be associated with foreigners in such a work, 'the Government might suspect them of revolutionary designs.' Very unwillingly we have given up the idea of a mixed Committee, and for the present we Americans will do what we can."

I also learnt from the same source that there seems to be a very widespread belief throughout that district that there will be a fresh outburst of fanatical rage against Christians during the coming Bairam festival, one town in particular, viz., Gemerek, being mentioned as very likely to be the scene of violence and bloodshed. The Turks of Gemerek, which is a small town situated about 60 miles to the north-east of Cæsarea, just within the borders of the Vilayet of Sivas, are reported to be saying openly that they will "wipe out" the Christians during Bairam. Curiously enough these very men behaved remarkably well on a previous occasion in helping the Armenians to defend the town against a threatened attack from Circassians and Kurds. Now, it appears, they repent of the attitude they then assumed, in consequence of an impression which is daily gaining ground, that the local authorities regarded with anything but a favourable eye their conduct on that occasion. In proof of this it is related that a well-known Turk named Jadri Oghlou Ali, who, with his sons and brothers, did yeoman service in defence of the town in co-operation with the Armenians, has ever since been subjected at the hands of the authorities to a long course of petty annoyance and vexation, the climax being reached quite recently when he was carried off a prisoner to Sharkushla for alleged non-payment of arrears of taxes. The lesson which this story conveys is easily learnt and not readily forgotten, so that the next time the Kurds and Circassians make one of their murderous forays, they are not likely to meet with any opposition on the part of the Turks.

Personally, I hope and trust that the wide-spread feeling of mistrust and fear as regards a probable renewal of disorders during Bairam is without any serious foundation. At the same time, I should state that M. Levitsky, whose arrival from Cæsaria I reported in my previous despatch, seems to think that the outlook is very serious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—I have just heard that the Reserves (Redifs) have again been called out in this district. They are to report themselves at head-quarters to-morrow.

W. S. R.

No. 307.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 213.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 186 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizonde, reporting the expulsion of Essad Bey, President of the Criminal Court of Appeal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, March* 10, 1896.

YOUR Excellency will have received my telegram of this date referring to my despatch of the 21st January, and reporting the conveyance of Essad Bey, the President of the Criminal Court of Appeal to Constantinople. He was arrested in the street and taken on board the Austrian steamer, while his two attendants, who are both Moslems, were both thrown into prison. The charge brought against him and his men is that they had been spreading false reports calculated to alarm the Christians and disturb public peace.

Since the beginning of the Ramazan there have been no end of rumours that there would be another massacre in Bairam. That the Turks were in possession of a number of rifles and revolvers was moreover proved by the discharge of fire-arms in all directions during the eclipse of the moon on the night of the 28th ultimo. The observance of this superstitious custom to so wide-spread an extent, and in defiance of martial law, alarmed the authorities, who promptly took more stringent measures to maintain order. All who carried arms about them, and all who made use of threatening language towards the Christians, were seized and lodged in prison to the number of about fifty up to date. Others who, after due warning, attempted by words or deeds to undermine the influence of the Vali were expelled. Among those was Essad Bey as well as the Major of Gendarmeric, Nouri Bey, sent off yesterday to Constantinople, the one by the Austrian and the other by the Russian steamer.

Essad Bey's expulsion from Trebizond caused naturally not little sensation. He brought it upon himself, however, by speaking unreservedly on the present situation by predicting further disturbances, and by villifying in no measured terms the Governor-General Cadri Bey. That he has been given of late to using unguarded language is scarcely to be doubted, particularly so ever since the 3rd instant, when in broad daylight and in a crowded thoroughfare he was roughly cuffed and handled by two Turkish villagers, who, he believes, were hired to insult him thus, though they themselves, now in custody, persist in declaring that they did so on his swearing at them as they rushed past him.

Without entering into the respective merits and demerits of the Vali and the Reïs, I cannot but remark that Essad Bey had apparently put himself in the wrong by joining the faction which has recently sprung up against Cadri Bey. He has thus rendered his position at Trebizond untenable so long as the present Governor-General is intrusted with the administration of the province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 308.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 214.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, reporting the enrolment in that vilayet of a police force in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Scheme of Reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Sivas, March* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the recent reforms, a body of police has this week been raised and equipped.

The following are the particulars:—

The head Commissaire is a Turk, and received 1,200 piastres a month.

There are five Commissaires of the second class, who receive 450 piastres a month. One of these is an Armenian.

There are twenty-eight Commissaires of the third class, who receive 350 piastres a month. Of these four are Armenians.

The exact number of the privates is not yet definitely fixed, but among them are two Greeks and five Armenians. Their pay is to be 250 piastres a month. These men have supplied their own uniform and equipment, but the Government states they will be reimbursed. Their pay is to commence on the 1st March (12th March), but the Governor-General has written for permission to issue pay from the date of their enrolment. Orders are to be issued to-day as to what parts of the province they are to be quartered.

The Governor-General informed me that he would at once commence raising the gendarmes as directed by the reforms, and engaged to execute each of the reforms in turn.

The officials who were sent to various parts of the province for the purpose of collecting and restoring the property pillaged from the villages have nearly all returned. I am informed by Turks and Christians alike that they have kept or sold the bulk of the property recovered for themselves. I am informed that a petition was presented by some of the villages to the Governor-General complaining of one of these officials, and stating he had kept what he had recovered for himself, and that the Governor-General, in reply, remarked that if he had not, some other official would. I wish to place on record this answer, as one of the few, ever given by a Turkish official, of which the truth is indisputable.

There is considerable scarcity in some of the villages, and I believe some few deaths may have occurred from starvation. The Governor-General has, I am informed, written to Constantinople for permission to spend the necessary sums to supply food, seed, and the cattle necessary for ploughing.

A short time ago I received a letter from the Gregorian Archbishop, which he wished to be strictly private, informing me with some detail of a plot arranged by some Turks to create a fresh pillage and massacre of the town. I saw the Governor-General, and informed him of the necessity of extra precautions. Several arrests were made, and everything remained quiet. Confidence has been recently, to a great extent, restored, and more than 100 Armenian shops are now open.

There is a great deal of sickness in the town, chiefly typhoid, but I do not ascribe it in any way to scarcity of food.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 309.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of an article from the Turkish paper "Tarik" of the 12th instant, reporting the formation of Turkish Relief Commissions in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

Most of the members of the Commission appear to be not only Moslems, but Ulemas, and are therefore not likely to devote much time to the reconstruction of Christian places of worship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 309.

Extract from the "Tarik" of March 12, 1896.

(Translation.)

IN accordance with His Majesty's Iradé a Commission for the relief of the necessitous has been formed in the Vilayet of Bitlis under the presidency of the Vali, and a Commission for the rebuilding of places of worship has been constituted, consisting of Hajji Nejin-ed-Din Effendi, member of the Administrative Council, President; and Issa and Sheikh Shakir Effendis, members of the Court of First Instance; Vasrif Effendi, Acting Accountant of Evkaf; and the Ulema Molla Hamid Effendi.

No. 310.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting on the situation in that district.

I am instructing Mr. Block to call the attention of the Porte to the alleged danger of Kurdish raids.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Williams to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Van, February* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the city and district of Van remain quiet.

Eight Armenians were killed in a village near here on the 28th January. Some Kurds have been arrested, and are now in prison. Two other Armenians are reported to have been killed in villages. The Vali has sent to make inquiries.

As regards the outlook for the coming spring, I have nothing further to add to what I have already written. Time, however, is slipping away, and unless steps are taken in the near future to obtain some hold over the Kurds, I am afraid the coming summer will see very grave events in this vilayet.

I attach herewith copy of a letter from Mr. Allen, of the American Mission, who has just returned from Persia. It is interesting as showing how bitter is the feeling between the Kurds and the Armenians. I do not believe that a raid on Van itself is likely, but it is very probable that unless something is done the villagers, who have already lost most of their property, will be given the choice of conversion or death. This letter is further instructive as indicating the method by which the Government

deals with the Kurdish question. Instead of arresting one or two or more of such Chiefs as they could easily catch, the Mushire at Erzinghian telegraphs to the Hamidieh Commanders to "keep quiet."

Such an order practically condones past offences.

Ferik Saad-ed-din-Pasha has arrived here as Inspector of Reforms, but I understand he has no active functions. He is a good specimen of a well-bred Turk, but I am afraid his appointment is not a wise one, as from all I can gather he is extremely fanatical.

The question of enlisting Christian police hangs fire here owing to the hostility of the Revolutionary party ("Huntchakists").

The Bishop has, however, now informed me that he will submit some names to the Vali. Whether or no he can carry out his promise remains to be seen. The relief work carried on by the American missionaries progresses satisfactorily, but I find that considerable jealousy exists in the minds of the Turks against them and their method of work. I am doing my best to smooth matters, and have just sent off relief to the district of Shattakh, associating with two Armenians, a trustworthy European who is also trusted by the Kurds.

From the Vali and Turkish officials generally I continue to receive every kindness and attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

The Rev. H. Allen to Vice-Consul Williams.

My dear Sir, *Van, February* 17, 1896.

ALLOW me to call your attention to one or two facts which I was able to glean during my recent trip to and from Urumiah in Persia. My guard of four mounted Turkish zaptiehs afforded me ample protection and secured what was equally necessary, the hospitality of the Kurdish Beys and Aghas along the way.

The hostility of these same Kurds, however, towards my two Armenian servants was very marked, so much so that their lives were at times in great danger.

The encounter between Armenian revolutionists and Kurds at Serai and Boghaz Kessan last fall has left its indelible mark on the Kurdish mind. They will never forget that a handful of Armenian rebels killed seventeen of their own valiant warriors, including two famous Chiefs, Jendi and Shavez. To a man they are burning to take their revenge on the city of Van, which they regard as the nest and harbour of these hated traitors. How far are these Kurds ready to go in the execution of their threats is a question which at once suggests itself. The following may throw some light upon the matter:—

On my return journey I spent a day at Kotser, a frontier town in Persia, and fell in with a high Persian official, whom I had met twice before. He told me that very recently several Kurdish tribes had planned a raid on the city of Van, but owing to the still bitter feud between Shamrikis and Milanlis, and also the fact of a heavy snowfall, the plan had been given up. At the time I classed this information as one of the many rumours afloat.

At Serai, a Kurdish garrison town, and my next stopping place, I heard the same report indirectly from official sources.

Again, I was not inclined to take it seriously until I reached Mollah Hassan, a Kurdish village within ten hours' ride of Van. My host here was Tamur Agha, a wealthy sub-Chief of the Moogonli tribe. While my men were still outside and I was alone with this Kurd in the room, I asked him the news. He told me, in reply, that the Reform Commissioners had arrived in Van, and added that a telegram had but just come from the Mushire to the Hamidieh Chiefs ordering them to refrain from making a raid on the city of Van. "Why," I asked in some surprise, "had they any such intention?" "Oh yes, preparations were all complete, and the Hamidiehs were organized for the attack, and had it not been for this heavy fall of snow as well as the Mushire's telegram, you would have found Van in a sorry state on your return." I thought it best not to display an undue interest in the question, so after listening a while to his curses on the Armenians, I turned the conversation into other channels. But later my host delivered himself thus to another member of my party: "You will not think we have as yet given up our plan of attacking Van. If the

Armenians will do two things—lay down their arms and give up the Revolutionists to the Government, we will keep quiet; if not, then Van is to be attacked, whether the Mushire wills it or not."

How much all this means I do not pretend to know, but simply report it for what it was worth. But of one thing I have no doubt, and that is that the feelings of the Kurds, at least those to the east of Van, have never been wrought up to as high a pitch as now, and it seems to me that the special danger lies in the fact that the Kurds are being prompted now not so much by a greed for plunder as by a thirst for revenge on the Christians. This makes them not only more dangerous, but far less controllable, so that I believe that only immediate and stringent measures will prevent some form of serious trouble.

In submitting the above to your notice, I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT M. ALLEN.

No. 311.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Pera, March* 18, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 192 of the 12th instant, respecting the opposition of Zekki Pasha to any proceedings against the Kurds, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Block, in conjunction with the French and Russian Dragomans, made representations to the Porte on the subject, and suggested the advisability of having the three Kurdish Chiefs in question tried at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 312.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 18, 1896.

MY Italian colleague has communicated to me the following telegram which he received on the 11th instant from his Consul at Trebizond:—

"Last night three Turks attacked our Cavass as he returned from his house, and shot at him with a revolver, wounding him severely.

"Several arrests have been made, but no confidence is placed in the promises of the Governor. The Turks are armed, and the danger is consequently continual. This event has produced a great impression, and similar incidents take place perpetually.

"On Monday the President of the Court of Appeal was arrested and forcibly embarked on the Austrian steamer for Constantinople.

"It is most necessary that the Governor should be at once changed."

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 313.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 18, 1896.

MR. VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD telegraphed to me on the 11th instant, at the request of Mr. Barnum, of Kharput, to the following effect:—

"There is a general and increasing apprehension throughout the vilayet, caused by threats of massacre for Bairam and the inaction of the Government.

"The Governor-General told Mr. Barnum that he was aware of these threats, but had received instructions from Constantinople to take steps to prevent an attack by

Armenians on the mosques during the Bairam festival. This remark is of a most disquieting nature, as it seems to imply that the Government intend to use the same pretext as before for making further attacks on the Armenians.

Similar threats are being made at Diabekir for Bairam, but the state of affairs in the town has improved owing to the arrest of Arif Effendi on the 10th instant.

"The Christians in Chinkoosh and Silouan and Palou live in daily terror of the local Kurds, who prevent the distribution of relief sent by the Americans, one of whose relief agents in the former place, an aged priest, Minas Vartabed by name, has been forcibly converted to Islam and detained in a Mussulman school. The Vali states that he has issued instructions to the local authorities to allow the distribution of relief, but it is useless to attempt relief in the outlying districts unless the distributors are protected."

On receipt of this telegram I caused the attention of the Sublime Porte to be called to the dangerous state of affairs at Kharput, and urged that protection and facilities should be granted for the distributors of relief in the villages of that vilayet.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has since assured Mr. Block that the desired instructions have been sent by telegraph to Kharput.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 314.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 136 of the 18th February, inclosing the comments of the Governor-General of Erzeroum on the Memorandum signed by the English, French, and Russian Consuls, respecting the disturbances in that town, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Cumberbatch dealing with Raouf Pasha's observations.

I propose, after reference to the other two Embassies, to draw up a Memorandum for presentation to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 314.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 17th February, received on the 1st instant, I have the honour to return the Report of the Governor-General, commenting on the Memorandum on the disorders in this town, signed by me and my colleagues, and whilst maintaining everything contained in my despatches and the said Memorandum, I, in compliance with your Excellency's instructions, beg leave to forward, in the inclosed Memorandum, my observations on Raouf Pasha's Report, especially on those parts marked or queried by your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 314.

Observations by Consul Cumberbatch on the Report of the Governor-General of Erzeroum, commenting on the Consular Memorandum on the Disorders at Erzeroum.

I MAINTAIN the assertion that the Mussulman population of Erzeroum was prepared for a concerted attack on the Armenians, but I admit, as I have done in my reports, that certain doings of the Armenian Revolutionary party had tended to excite their feelings. There would have been no reason for the frequent exhortations of the Vali to the leading Mussulmans to restrain their co-religionists from committing acts of violence had he not known of their designs, and of which he was previously warned by me and my colleagues.

The disappearance of the venerated Sheikh Haidar, referred to in my despatch of the 1st October, and the subsequent discovery of his mutilated remains, as also the abduction of the daughter and daughter-in-law of Khalo Agha, created great indignation among the Kurds of the Khiniss district, and the latter determined to avenge themselves on the Armenians, who were suspected of these deeds.

The Armenian version is that the daughter-in-law was an Armenian woman who had been carried off and forcibly married to Khalo's son two or three years ago, and that when she was rescued his daughter was also carried off out of revenge. The latter was afterwards recaptured at Erzeroum, to which town she had come in the company of a young Armenian, whilst the other woman fled across the frontier.

2. I also maintain that the regulations on the carrying of arms were most rigorously enforced as regards Armenians, whilst Mussulmans were not only not deprived of theirs, but were not prevented from purchasing them in the bazaars.

Bands of ill-looking Kurds and Turkish villagers, with no ostensible business, were allowed to roam about the town for several days before the events, whilst Armenian travellers were obliged to deposit their weapons at the gates on entering.

3. Raouf Pasha only mentions the infantry as having fulfilled their duties. Some of them behaved better than the artillery, and Raouf Pasha no doubt purposely refrained from including the latter, as he cannot deny the fact that they committed the grossest excesses. The fact that they were immediately afterwards transferred from their barracks near the Armenian quarter plundered by them, to the opposite side of the town, and that some fifty men, including a colonel and a few officers, were placed under arrest, was sufficient proof of the opinion held and expressed in high quarters here, as to their culpability. Sufficient evidence of the participation of soldiers in the massacre was to be found in the bodies of the victims as they lay in rows in the cemetery, and among which bullet wounds were far more numerous than gashes of swords or bludgeons, with which the civilians were mostly armed.

(Further remarks on this point will be found under paragraph 8).

4 and 5. Late in the evening of the day of the massacre the Chief of Police called on me and my colleagues and invited us, on the part of the Vali, to go to the Konak, or send our Dragomans, "to assist at the official inquiry into the events of the day. We agreed to send our Dragomans, but gave them instructions not to sign any document without referring to us.

They returned, after an hour's absence, and reported that they had not been asked to assist at any sort of inquiry, but were merely shown six dead bodies lying in the main passage on the ground floor of the Konak, and one, in the gendarme's room, which they were told was that of the Beuluk Emini (gendarmerie official), a Mussulman, and over which a military cloak was thrown. They did not examine any of the bodies to identify them.

The next day I was solemnly assured by the Armenian Archbishop, and his statement is still maintained by many Armenians, that the body alleged to be that of the Turk was really that of an Armenian called Kevork, a serjeant of the municipal police who, he said, had been temporarily replacing the Beuluk Emini, then away on leave of absence, and who was killed that day.

This version, stoutly denied by the authorities, has never been proved to my satisfaction, but, even admitting that the body was that of the Turk, there is another possible explanation of his death. Two Armenians were shot by the gendarmes at the door of this official's room. One fell inside and the other just outside the door. As the gendarmes fired from the passage outside, it is within the range of possibility that they hit the official as he was sitting at a table opposite the door, and thus in the direct line of fire.

With regard to the inquiry above referred to, though I expressed to the Vali and Shakir Pasha my readiness, and that of my colleagues, to assist, in person or by deputy, at the preliminary inquiry which we had been given to understand was to be held, no further communication on the subject was made to us. When, later on, we heard that the Porte had been informed that the disorders had been provoked by an armed attack on the Konak, we saw through the manœuvre of getting our Dragomans to verify the presence of the dead bodies there.

We applied for a copy of the *procès-verbal*, and, though it was promised by the Vali and Shakir Pasha, we have never even been shown it.

The men Manouk and Mihran are mentioned by the Vali, presumably in order to support the official statement that the Armenians provoked the disorders by an attack on the Konak.

Even admitting that the Archbishop or his secretary did send Manouk to warn the shopkeepers of the danger that threatened them, this can be explained by the fact that it was owing to this Prelate's assurances of his confidence in the authorities that the people had been induced to go to their shops and offices, and that he felt a heavy moral responsibility in the matter. Many Turks warned their Armenian friends that morning of the impending danger, and closed their own shops one or two hours before the outbreak. It was due to such timely warnings that many of the survivors owed their safety. The second Dragoman of this Consulate and his father and their assistant being among the number.

It was owing to the alarming reports as to the threatening attitude of the Turks, brought to me early in the morning by the First Dragoman, a Catholic Armenian, and others, that I sent the former with a Cavass, whose escort he usually dispensed with, at 10 A.M., to the Vali. On their way to the Konak they passed through the busiest thoroughfares and saw numerous bands of Turks collected at street corners. Many wore white turbans as a distinctive mark. They saw a "kanoun" (military police) stop an ill-looking Turk carrying an empty sack, and they overheard the "kanoun" telling him to remain quiet, that when it (the riot) commenced he could do what he pleased. When the Dragoman got to the Konak, usually full of life at that hour, it was deserted. This seemed ominous, and, after waiting a quarter of an hour, he decided to return. Everything was very quiet, the Armenians were peaceably occupied in their shops, and strong patrols were about. After traversing two or three streets he suddenly found himself and the Cavass in a crowd of flying Armenians, mixed up with an excited mob of Turks wearing white turbans, and rushing towards Armenian shops, and soldiers hurrying in all directions. Shots were also heard. They pushed their way to a neighbouring guard-house, where the Dragoman decided to remain, the Cavass returning alone to the Consulate by back streets.

The injudicious conduct of the Archbishop has been reported in my despatch of the 8th November, but that he actually made use, in his sermons, of the words attributed to him, was most positively denied.

The Konak is a building with a long street front. In that street the disorders commenced. The Armenians who had fire-arms used them in self-defence, and it is possible some shots hit the Konak on the opposite side, but, as the soldiers were also firing promiscuously in all directions it is not impossible that they were to a great extent, if not entirely, responsible for those shots.

I can vouch for the fact that for one Armenian shot fired round the Consulate there were over twenty rifles fired off by the soldiers, who had been supplied with sixty rounds of ball cartridge each.

In December certain Armenian notabilities, seeing unfavourable opinion entertained in Turkish circles against their Archbishop, and hoping to ingratiate themselves with the authorities, and thus avert their own arrest on suspicion of complicity, were prevailed upon by the authorities to disavow their Prelate, and to blame him for encouraging a hostile attitude towards the Government, as mentioned in my despatch of the 31st December. They telegraphed to the Patriarch requesting Monsigneur Shishmanian's removal, and they called on him to explain their conduct and to induce him to leave the place, and thus avert further calamities to the town.

Nothing contained in our Memorandum can be taken as implicitly recognizing that the Armenians commenced the troubles, by a premeditated attack on the Konak, the soldiers or the Mussulmans as, it is to be inferred from the Vali's interpretation of our statement, it is his desire should be understood. We merely intended to record the fact that several Armenians were armed and defended themselves when attacked. From some Armenian houses, but not where the massacre took place, some shots were fired on

soldiers; this was after the general massacre and pillage in the bazaars had more or less subsided, and it was more in the nature of reprisals.

6. I do not know whether the Vali sent an amended estimate of the number of killed, but in the original official version published it was given at 50, which is not nearly the same as 350.

7. The number of shops plundered was over-estimated by us. More thorough inquiries resulted in showing 316 houses and 700 shops pillaged, as per inclosure in my despatch of the 7th January.

8. I have not heard of the alleged acts of cruelty practised by Armenians on Mussulmans in isolated places. It has for a long time past, in fact always, been the vogue to attribute various crimes to Christians, without insisting too much on proofs of their guilt.

Neither have I heard of Armenians insulting Turkish women at the doors of public baths.

The Vali's remarks on these two points are probably not confined to occurrences in this town only.

The particulars of the assassination of Artin and Simon were given in my despatch of the 11th October.

The military authorities, anticipating the outbreak, had evidently already issued written as well as verbal orders to the various commanding officers, as was proved by the promptitude with which the troops took up their allotted stations, but the instructions as to the conduct of the military were either not explicit enough or were not properly executed.

Many of the subordinate officers were influenced by their natural hatred of the Armenians, and the soldiers simply "broke away." I will mention what I saw myself. Directly the first alarm was sounded about thirty soldiers stationed in the guard-house, almost alongside of this Consulate, rushed out, crouched down behind the low wall of their yard, and covered the two streets leading from the bazaars with their loaded rifles. The frightened Armenians came rushing up those two streets. The first man, flying for his life towards the Consulate, was immediately fired at by a soldier, upon which I interfered, and the Captain in charge was induced to order his men to refrain from firing on the Armenians unless attacked.

The soldiers told off for the protection of the French Consulate next door thought it incumbent on them to fire on Armenians flying from the neighbouring houses to an European's house 50 yards higher up, but were also stopped by me.

All day long Turks kept running past the guard-house near this Consulate with bundles of looted goods, and little or no attempt was made by the soldiers or their officers to arrest the pillagers or to seize the goods.

The next morning, on my way to the Konak, I saw several soldiers ransacking the plundered shops and carrying off remains.

The Dragoman of this Consulate, while he was in the guard-house, as related above, overheard a staff officer urging one of the commanding Colonels to go and make the soldiers stop pillaging. The Colonel replied that he had done his best, but that neither the infantry nor the artillerymen would obey his commands.

As I have stated elsewhere, Raouf Pasha, considering the difficulties of his position, did his best to prevent the disorders, but he was apparently powerless to stop them once they did break out.

His estimated proportion of houses and shops saved is too large. The troubles cannot be said to have broken out suddenly, and even if they had, the strong force of patrols in the streets were quite sufficient to protect the lives and property of the Armenians had they really chosen to do so.

Eighty per cent. is a very exaggerated estimate of the proportion of goods restored; 5 per cent would be much nearer the reality.

The troubles were not suppressed the day of their outbreak, nor were order and tranquillity re-established at once.

Addendum.

As the allegation that the immediate cause of the troubles at Erzeroum was an armed attack by Armenians on the Konak, and that the six bodies shown to the Dragomans were those of the men who perpetrated the rash act is still persistently insisted upon in Government circles, I take this opportunity to show on what meagre grounds these accusations are based.

Ignoring entirely statements of survivors—mostly wounded—who declare that they

were suddenly and simultaneously fallen upon in their shops by the Mussulman mob, assisted by soldiers, no one with a knowledge of the position of affairs in this town can give much weight to the official version, especially in view of the facts that a strong guard of gendarmes is always quartered at the Konak, that the streets were strongly patrolled by soldiers, and that the Mussulman mob was prepared for the onslaught.

The following details concerning the six men whose bodies were pointed out to the Dragomans as those of the individuals who attacked the Konak do not support the charge:—

1. Der Yeghiya, Priest of Tifnik (Erzeroum plain). He had arrived here a few days before to seek Government protection against a band of armed Turks who had forcibly entered his house, ill-treated him, and made him sign an undertaking to pay them 100*l.* by a specified date, the alternative being the sacking of the village, of which he was the richest inhabitant, which subsequently was effected. Acting on my advice, he had prepared a Petition to the Vali, and had that morning gone to the Konak to present it to his Excellency. Neither in his conduct, manners, or appearance did he give one the impression of a man capable of the reckless act he is accused of—quite the contrary.

2. A youth called Emin, nephew of the foregoing, whom he had accompanied here.

3. Setrak Sapoundjian, a poor inoffensive lawyer and public writer, who had drawn up the Petition for Der Yeghiya, and had gone to the Konak to help him to approach the Vali.

4. Ofik Magarian, a good-for-nothing habitual drunkard and hanger-on of the Law Courts situated in the Konak, where he was in the habit of spending most of his time in trying to recover long-standing debts from his numerous debtors of former better days. This fellow was credited with the murder of the gendarme official, and his body was at first seen just outside the door of the gendarme's room, but it was lying at some distance outside when the Dragoman saw it.

5. Hatchadour Tchorokian, a tailor, who fled to the Konak, for safety, from his shop in the nearest bazaar, directly the disorders commenced. His body was at first seen inside the gendarme's room, but it was also lying outside, near that of Ofik, when the Dragomans saw them.

6. Vahan, a villager, who had been arrested and imprisoned for wounding a Turk in a quarrel near the village of Saouk Tcharmouk. He had apparently been brought up from the prison to be interrogated.

Had these six bodies turned out to be those of strangers, or of well-known desperadoes, or of "Hintchakists," there might have been less reason for discrediting the official version, but, from what I could learn about the antecedents of these men, none of them could be suspected of having possessed the courageous qualities required for the daring deed attributed to them.

The official who accompanied the Dragomans when they were shown the bodies averred that these men all had revolvers on them, but when they asked to see them their request was not complied with.

No. 315.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 224.)

Constantinople, March 19, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed statistics which have been communicated privately to Mr. Block by a member of the Commission of Control showing the proportional population of Moslems and Christians in the six Anatolian Vilayets according to the official view.

I caused them to be compared with the statistics in the possession of this Embassy, and your Lordship will observe from the inclosed Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Blech that considerable discrepancies exist between the two.

I shall propose to the French and Russian Embassies to compare notes with the view, if their information agrees with ours, of calling the attention of the Commission to the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 315.

Proportional Population of Moslems and Christians in the six Anatolian Vilayets.

	Population.	Proportion of Christians.
Diarbekir.		
Moslems	378,253	18 per cent.
Non-Moslems	83,752	
Sivas.		
Moslems	801,630	17 "
Non-Moslems	170,351	
Maamouret-el-Aziz.		
Moslems	494,881	15 "
Non-Moslems	91,422	
Van.		
Moslems	207,628	32 "
Non-Moslems	101,264	
Erzeroum.		
Moslems	545,782	18½ "
Non-Moslems	123,935	
Bitlis.		
Moslems	352,713	24 "
Non-Moslems	126,874	

Inclosure 2 in No. 315.

Proportion of Christians to Moslems in the six Vilayets.

THE statistics we possess show considerable divergences from the figures supplied by the Commission of Control.

ERZEROUM.

In 1890 the population was estimated by the Porte and Consul Clifford Lloyd at 545,159, with a Christian population of 113,488, or about 21 per cent.; the total is now given at 669,717, and the Christian population is figured at 123,935 = 18½ per cent.

VAN.

The three estimates differ still more widely; the variations in the totals is considerable. In 1890 the Turkish estimate was 418,494, and that of Consul Lloyd 270,988, while it has now become 308,392. The respective proportion of Christians to the total is 32½ per cent., 57 per cent., and 32 per cent.

BITLIS.

	Population.	Proportion of Christians.
Turkish total, 1890	266,988	41 per cent.
Mr. Lloyd, 1890	287,876	42 "
Commission, 1895	479,587	24 "

DIARBEKIR.

Turkish total, 1890	312,444	23 per cent.
Mr. Lloyd, 1890	392,168	22½ ,,
Commission, 1895	462,605	11 ,,

KHARPOUT.

Turkish total, 1890	381,352	21½ per cent.
Mr. Lloyd, 1890	293,508	30 ,,
Commission, 1895	586,303	15 ,,

SIVAS.

Turkish total, 1890	892,201	17½ per cent.
Commission, 1895	971,981	17 ,,

March 14, 1896.

Inclosure 8 in No. 315.

COMPARATIVE Estimates of Population of the Six Vilayets.

Authority and Date.	Vilayets of—											
	Erzeroum.		Van.		Bitlis.		Diarbekir.		Kharpout.		Sivas.	
	Mussulman.	Non-Mussulman.	Mussulman.	Non-Mussulman.	Mussulman.	Non-Mussulman.	Mussulman.	Non-Mussulman.	Mussulman.	Non-Mussulman.	Mussulman.	Non-Mussulman.
Turkish official estimate, 1890	441,671	113,488	282,582	125,912	167,054	102,914	240,574	71,570	300,104	81,158	735,489	156,712
Consul C. Lloyd's estimate, 1890	441,671	113,488	115,000	155,989	166,794	121,082	304,864	87,364	205,353	88,155	..	..
Commission of Control, 1895	545,782	123,935	207,026	101,264	352,713	126,874	378,323	83,732	494,881	91,422	801,630	170,351

No. 316.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Varna, reporting the destruction by fire of the Armenian school-house at that place, and the death of a travelling Armenian Archimandrite who was sleeping in it.

The authorities here appear disposed to ascribe the crime to Turkish agents, but the police have not discovered any clue to the perpetrators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 316.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Elliot.

Varna, March 15, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that in the early morning of the 12th instant the Armenian school-house here, an old building largely composed of timber, was burnt down, and that a travelling Archimandrite from Russia, who was sleeping alone in the upper storey, met with his death in the flames.

The police are actively investigating the origin of the fire, and several persons, principally Hintchagists, have been arrested, as there seems to be well-grounded suspicions that the fire, which appears to have originated at the basement, close to a wooden staircase leading upstairs, was the work of incendiaries.

This Archimandrite, a comparatively young man, was supposed to be travelling with the Mission to convey the Apostolic blessing of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin to various Armenian Communities in Roumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, after which he was to have proceeded to Paris and London.

His first station was at Sulina where he stopped several days, attending the consecration of a church, &c., but his further stay in the country was put an end to by the Roumanian Government—it is said at the instance of the Sublime Porte—ordering him to quit the country at once and return to Russia. From Reni he took a Russian steamer to Widdin, and thence proceeded to Swishtof, Ruschuk, Shumla, and other places, and it was the night of his return from the neighbouring town of Dobritch, where he spent several days, that the fatal fire took place.

The only reason for supposing that he might have incurred the enmity of the Hintchagists is that he is said systematically to have deprecated revolutionary methods and counselled patience, adding, that in due time the Turkish yoke would be thrown off with the help of Russia, and because, as asserted, he was one of several emissaries from the Caucasus charged with a similar message.

On the other hand, I must add that a leading Armenian, and perhaps a Hintchagist himself, with whom I spoke on the subject, scouted the idea that the Hintchagists had any hand in his death, saying that, on the contrary, he was greatly beloved by them, as he had helped them in every possible way, giving them clothing, getting up subscriptions, and finding them employment, and that, although he gave counsels of patience, moderation, and union among themselves, he had the true interests of the nation at heart, while it was well known that he had no large sum of money in his possession.

Be this as it may, there is no doubt that his movements were regarded with some suspicion by the Bulgarian authorities, who, whether acting on their own initiative, or prompted by ouside influence, more than once called upon the Archimandrite to show his credentials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 317.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 23, 1896, 1 P.M.

MR. CUMBERBATCH telegraphs from Erzeroum to-day that 40,000 is the estimate of the number of people to be relieved up to the month of August.

No. 318.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Pera, March* 20, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Block, First Dragoman of Her Majesty's Embassy, respecting the unsatisfactory constitution of the present Commission of Control for the Armenian provinces.

I have communicated this document to the French and Russian Embassies with a view of ascertaining if they will take any steps for improving the present organization of this body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 318.

Mr. Block to Sir P. Currie.

I DULY informed your Excellency that the Sultan on the 7th instant wished your Excellency and Lord Salisbury to be informed that he had carried out his promise with regard to the appointment of Zihni Pasha as President of the Commission of Control, and that his Imperial Iradé appointing Zihni to that post had been sent to the Porte.

I also reported to your Excellency that on the 9th instant His Majesty informed me through the First Secretary that Zihni Pasha had declined the post in a letter to the Grand Vizier, and, although called up to the Palace and pressed to accept it, he had persisted in his refusal. The First Secretary showed me a letter from Zihni Pasha to this effect, stating that he had for many years occupied Ministerial posts and Governor-Generalships, and that his health also was not good, and for these reasons he declined to accept the post.

It appeared to me that Zihni Pasha considered the post as derogatory to his dignity, and this view has been confirmed by what the Foreign Minister has confidentially told me.

We shall now have to work with Shefik Bey as President. Personally, there is nothing to object to in this official, but Lord Salisbury has protested against him on the ground that he was President of the Mush Commission; and there is another consideration to which I desire to draw your attention.

The Commission of Control is properly a permanent institution; but as at present constituted it is no such thing. All its members are employés of some Ministry or other, *e.g.*:—

1. Shefik Bey is President of "Chambre des Requêtes," Court of Cassation.
2. Jemal Bey is Director of Agricultural Bank.
3. Jelal Bey is President of Criminal Section, Court of Appeal.
4. Constantine Carathéodori is member of Council of State (Legislative Section).
5. Sakiz Ohannes is "Procureur Impérial près la Cour des Comptes."
6. Dilber Effendi is Legal Adviser at the Ministry of Finance.
7. Abdullah Bey is Member of Council of State.

Now, all these officials are paid members of their respective Departments, and their position on the Commission of Control carries with it no salary; it is, so to speak,

an honorary occupation. Further, they have their duties to perform in the Departments from which they draw pay; and what is more important is that none of these persons can venture to criticise the action of their chiefs, the Ministers of their Departments, or to give instructions or suggest and advise the giving of instructions which would not be to the taste of their Chiefs, on whom they depend for promotion, &c. Nos. 1, 3, and 5 are employés of the Ministry of Justice; No. 2 is an official of the Public Works Ministry; No. 6 is an official of the Ministry of Finance: the other two are fairly independent.

Under these circumstances it cannot be expected that the Commission should show any initiative or authority, and if the President is not a high and independent functionary the Commission cannot be of much account.

The above are the views of the members of the Commission itself, communicated to me privately and confidentially by one of the members.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

March 13, 1896.

No. 319.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 227.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 20, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Block, First Dragoman of this Embassy, respecting the difficulty of transacting business with the Sublime Porte and the neglect with which the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy (as well as those of other Powers) are treated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Mr. Block to Sir P. Currie.

THE reports of Her Majesty's Consular officers and other information reaching this Embassy have during the last two years, as your Excellency is aware, formed the subject of almost daily representations to the Porte. Matters connected with the maladministration of the provinces, the persecution of Armenians, and the existing insecurity and danger of outbreak have been by me and other Dragomans communicated in a friendly and unofficial manner both to the Grand Vizier and Foreign Minister, as well as to the Sultan's First Secretary.

I regret to say that, although the Grand Viziers Kiamil Pasha and Saïd Pasha did sometimes remedy abuses to which attention was called by Her Majesty's Embassy, yet since November, and especially since the beginning of the year, I notice that the representations have had little or no effect, and are sometimes met with a flat contradiction.

I do not mean to say that the present Foreign Minister and Grand Vizier refuse to consider the information given, on the contrary, telegram after telegram is addressed to the provincial Governors concerned, but the effect is not only very small, but sometimes even the contrary of what was to be expected; it would seem that either the "mot d'ordre" is to ignore our representations and to deny the accuracy of our information, or that the local Governors to justify themselves report that everything is in perfect order.

The position, therefore, is most unsatisfactory and somewhat undignified; the fact that the representations are not accepted in the friendly spirit they are offered in, and that our suggestions are ignored, seems to me to show that no further importance is attached to our intervention, even when that intervention is in the interest of the country itself, and there is no doubt that under present circumstances representations without means of persuading the Porte to act in accordance therewith rather irritate the Palace and Porte and aggravate the situation of the Armenians.

Yesterday, in accordance with instructions, I made representations to the Porte concerning insecurity at Aintab (Mr. Catoni's despatch of the 17th February). In the

absence of the Foreign Minister I spoke to the Secretary-General, who, in reply, showed me a telegram from the Vali of Aleppo, Raïf Pasha (supposed by us to be a good official), stating that order reigns at Aintab, and that the only disquieting element is the Armenians. His Excellency also showed me a telegram from the same Vali in reply to a representation I had made as to the destruction of vineyards belonging to Armenians. Raïf Pasha says, "Lors des événements, à cause du grand froid les propriétaires des vignes ont arraché des arbres secs et coupé des branches des vignes pour les brûler: il n'est pas vrai que les vignes et jardins aient été détruits."

His Excellency also showed me a letter from the Grand Vizier respecting affairs at Mush, Van, and Bitlis, to which I had called the attention of the Porte (Mr. Cumberbatch's No. 18, and Mr. Hampson's and Mr. Hallward's despatches, *passim*). The Grand Vizier says, "Les événements de Moush, dit le Seraskier, ont été exagérés. Un coup de feu parti d'une boutique a jeté l'alarme parmi les Arméniens et Musulmans, et il s'est produit une échauffourée qui a été de suite étouffée. Plus tard les Arméniens ont attaqué les Musulmans pendant la prière dans les mosquées. Les soldats ont fait leur possible pour empêcher des désordres à Moush et Bitlis et maintenir l'ordre. Malgré cela, ils sont calomniés. Les fauteurs des désordres ont été arrêtés et livrés à la justice. Les soldats qui se trouvent à Van sont suffisants pour maintenir l'ordre."

His Excellency showed me another letter from the Grand Vizier, saying it was absolutely false that Armenians arrested for sedition had ever been tortured in prison; such calumnies were the invention of evil-disposed persons, mostly Armenians.

These are examples of replies given to our representations; sometimes no reply whatsoever is vouchsafed.

The French Embassy is the only one which adopts the same line as we do, but not to the same extent, and I perceive that their representations on Armenian affairs are just as fruitless and unsuccessful as our own: for instance, the French Embassy has been pressing strenuously for months for the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir, Ennis Pasha; Ennis Pasha is still there, although on one occasion the Dragomans of the six Powers represented that this official should be dismissed.

A striking instance of the indifference of the Porte to our representations is the following. Her Majesty's Embassy censured the conduct of the Governor of Marash, and approved that of the Procureur of Trobizond, begging that the latter should be maintained in his post.

The Mutessarif has received the first class of the Mejidié, and the Procureur has been arrested and brought a prisoner to Constantinople on a trumped-up charge.

The fact is that the Porte, or rather the Palace, which directs everything, looks upon the Armenian question as settled; and although *pro formâ* our representations are not rejected, yet virtually and practically no attention whatsoever is paid to them.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

March 13, 1896.

No. 320.

Rev. G. Smith to Foreign Office.—(Received March 25.)

The Church of Scotland Offices, Edinburgh,

Sir, *March* 24, 1896.

I BEG to forward, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, copy of a letter detailing the state of the Lebanon and the rising of the Druses against the Turks, written by our very experienced medical missionary, Rev. Dr. Carslaw, to one of the members of our Committee who lately visited him there. The third page of the letter especially may interest his Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE SMITH, *C.I.E., LL.D.,*
Secretary.

Inclosure in No. 320.

Rev. W. Carslaw to Mr. Stephen.

Shweir, March 8, 1896.

Dear Mr. Stephen,

THE rumours of wars that encompassed us lately have gone, and we feel somewhat more free. For a time we were rather anxious, but, as it turned out, we had nothing to fear. The war with the Druses of the Hauran is over. The Turks lost many more men than the Druses, mainly through dysentery and fever. The Druses of Kefr Silwan, where we have a school, kept us informed of the progress of the war. We did not believe all they told us, but we have since found they were correct in all they said.

The war began in Mejdel Shems. The Circassians, Moslems, and soldiers attacked this small village. The Druses fought bravely against awfully superior numbers, but at last had to flee, leaving more than half their number dead. The Moslems, as usual, proved themselves beasts. The Druses of Lebanon were terribly excited at the news, and it required all the authority of the Government, and all the influence of their Sheikhs to keep them quiet. A good number of young men crossed over to the Hauran to help their brethren. The army sent to the Hauran were badly led, badly fed, and had bad water to drink. No wonder they were decimated with fever and dysentery. The Druses fought one pitched battle with them and lost, but they attacked the soldiers at night, cut off stragglers, foraging parties, and kept the soldiers in a continual state of alarm. Once they so managed matters that two divisions of the army fought one another the whole night through, the Druses helping them both, and only found out their mistake when morning appeared.

The Druses agreed to terms of peace :—

1. To pay all arrears of taxes.
2. To submit to the conscription.
3. To pay an indemnity.

But they objected to give up their arms. The Turks were glad enough to make peace on these terms. As soon as the Treaty was signed, the Turks demanded 1,500 men from the Druses for the army, the Druses refused, and a battle ensued in which both parties lost heavily. The Turks, however, succeeded in capturing a number of Druses, mostly old men. They were taken into Damascus and very cruelly treated all the way to prison. One of them died on the road from the blows he received, and his body after being treated with the utmost indignity was burned; 150 were sent to Beyrout to be shipped to Crete. On the way to the steamer, one old man, who was so wounded that he could not walk, and had to be carried by a young Druse, was pulled down by the soldiers who beat him and tried to make him walk. A Belgian who was looking on spoke in very strong language to the soldiers and got the old man hoisted again on the back of his comrade. We hope the Druses will not forget this treatment, nor is it likely they will.

They have lost all confidence in the Government and are now most friendly with the Christians. In any future disturbance it is probable that Christian and Druse will be found united against the Government. The Russians have lost a great deal of their influence among the Christians in Lebanon, owing to the support they have given the Sultan.

I think Lord Salisbury could easily checkmate them if he would threaten to make the Shereef of Mecca Caliph. The Moslems, especially the Arabs, would then rise against the Sultan.

Milhem is doing well, but is terribly cast down, for there is no prospect, or very little, of his getting his diploma in Constantinople if the present state of matters continues. The students who went there last year are still there, put off from day to day. Most of the students of the College will leave this year for America, where they will stay a year, and by Treaty they will get their diplomas at Constantinople on their return, being only kept a week or two there.

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. CARSLAW.

No. 321.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 228. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 21, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo, forwarding details concerning the disturbances at Adana.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 321.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Aleppo, March 5, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch addressed to your Excellency, through this Consulate, from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Christmann, of Mersina, giving a detailed account of the disturbances which have occurred recently in Adana.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CATONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 321.

Acting Vice-Consul Christmann to Sir P. Currie.

Excellency,

Mersina, February 29, 1896.

I HAD the honour to inform your Excellency, by a telegram in cypher dated the 26th instant, that troubles have occurred in Adana, and I now ask the permission to give more details about the disorders.

Sunday the 23rd instant, at about 3 P.M., two Armenians in a drunken state were passing near the mosque of Esgat Bazar; they were abusing each other in words. Ahmed Effendi, formerly President of the Adana Municipality, who was standing at the door of the mosque, got the impression that the two drunken Armenians had insulted the Mahommedan religion, consequently he encouraged the other Turks to punish the insult, and all the present Turks began to beat with sticks and other instruments the two Armenians, hurting them seriously. Some zaptiehs arrived, and succeeded to bring the two Armenians to the next police-station, but the excitement of the Turks was increasing. One of them, a professional public crier, made a loud appeal to the Mahommedans to come forward and fall upon the Ghiaours. In a few minutes there were thousands of armed Turks in the streets, beating and insulting every Christian met without distinction. Before the police-station, where the two Armenians were kept, fanatical people were claiming the two prisoners to kill them, and they threatened to attack the station. In the meantime, the authorities got acquainted with the occurrence, and a detachment of soldiers under the command of a Bimbashi (Major) reached the station. The officer ordered the prisoners to be brought to the central station; on the way the population attempted to take them from the soldiers, who defended them, but could not prevent their being wounded with daggers. The officer arrested some Turks, and among them Ahmed Effendi, the man who gave the first signal to attack the Armenians, but the mob assembled before the central station, and encouraged by some influential Turks, insisted to have Ahmed Effendi released, otherwise, threatening to burn the town. The authorities, upon the recommendation of the Vali, released Ahmed Effendi, showing thus a weakness.

The excited population began to pillage the bazar; two shops were entirely emptied, but military patrols succeeded in stopping the pillaging. About thirty Christians have been wounded in different parts of the town, among them six Orthodoxes and one Syrian. The two Armenians who have been the cause of the troubles have both died from the wounds received; the one some hours after his arrival in the central station, and the second two days later in the hospital.

The Vali and the military Governor did not agree as to the measures to be taken to maintain order; the military Governor insisted to repress the movement by any means, the Vali, on the contrary, would not offend the Mahommedans.

The news of these disorders in Adana became known in Mersina Monday at noon. M. Summarissa, the French Consul, went by train to Adana. Mr. Mead, chief of the American Mission, came down from Adana by special train at night to see the Commander of the United States' cruiser "Minneapolis," and both accompanied by the United States' Consular Agent went to Adana to see the Vali, who gave the usual promise that the authorities will do all they can to maintain order, but at the same time gave to understand that the authorities did not dispose of a sufficient force. The American Mission decided to remain in Adana, and the Commander of the American cruiser came back to Mersina.

Some Turks telegraphed to Constantinople complaining against the military authorities, but the Sublime Porte gave orders to repress with severity any disorders. Strong patrols of regular soldiers kept the streets clear, and disarmed any person bearing arms. The order appeared thus as having been re-established, but the Christian population did not feel reassured, and the bazar and all the shops continued to be closed. Many Armenians were anxious to leave the town and come to Mersina by the railway.

The police, however, hindered them by force, and some of them who succeeded to catch the train have been arrested and put in prison on arrival at Mersina.

The Russian Vice-Consul, M. Lidericondi, who went to Adana to see the Vali Thursday last, had stones thrown upon him in the courtyard of the konak, and on his way home three Turks holding daggers said to him, "with these we will kill the Ghiaours." The Vali informed of the fact, regretted very much the occurrence, but was otherwise unable to give satisfaction.

The situation in Adana, although presently much better, continues to be critical and even alarming, and the Christians in general do not feel themselves in security. The bazar and all the shops continue to be kept closed. I should have gone myself to Adana, but I am suffering from influenza and obliged to remain in my room. The fact that two drunken Armenians had insulted the Mahommedan religion as alleged, this accusation is false and imaginary; several Christians who happened to be present deny the accusation, they affirm that the two Armenians simply insulted each other, would not have, in normal circumstances, caused such an outbreak of fanaticism. There are some special reasons to explain the feelings of the Mahommedan population:—

1. Many Turks have arrived from places where massacres have occurred and addressed reproaches to the Adana people for having remained quiet, that they have not killed the Ghiaours. "What have you to fear, have we been punished?" They showed jewelry, stolen during the massacres at Kaiserie, and said: "Look here, we have assaulted the Ghiaours and we have made money besides." Such conversations were taking place in the hans, cafés, and other places, almost publicly, and the authorities have been informed, but did nothing to put a stop to the scandal. Jewelry, carpets, and other household articles known to have been taken from Christians in Kaisarie, Malatia, &c., were sold in the streets without any molestation. All this may have excited the Turks of the lower classes, and provoked in them the desire to do something.

2. The arrival at Adana of the four Armenians from Zeitoun, whom the public opinion considers to have been the chiefs of the insurrection, and therefore the direct cause of the death of so many Adana Redifs; more especially their prolonged stay in Adana may also be considered as a reason to explain the outbreak of fanaticism.

It is to be hoped that the severe orders given by the Central Government will be obeyed, and there is no doubt that if the local authorities sincerely wish to keep good order, the town of Adana will assume soon its former tranquillity. Up to now the maintenance of good order is solely due to the energetic behaviour of the military authorities, which deserve much praise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. J. CHRISTMANN.

No. 322.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting the revival of agitation by revolutionary agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 322.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that information has reached me, during the past week, of a secret agitation among the Passim villages, near the frontier, by agents of the Armenian revolutionary party (Hintchakists), their object being to induce the villagers to commit acts of hostility against Mussulmans.

I have also heard that the leaders of the "Tashnakzagan" organization are growing more active in Russian Armenia, their object appearing to be to incite the Armenians in Turkey to avenge the recent massacres. They have, apparently, changed their tactics, from those of preparedness for defence against Mussulman aggression, to acts more in conformity with the programme of the "Hintchakists."

Such agitation, if it succeeds, can only result in keeping alive the already sufficiently excited feelings of the Mussulmans and in causing further troubles to the Armenian population, which is less inclined than ever to listen to the pernicious counsels of revolutionary Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 323.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum stating that the religious persecution in the Vilayet of Kharput is unabated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 323.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward the inclosed extracts from two private letters, received by me from a sufficiently reliable source, dated Kharput the 17th and 22nd February, and showing that the religious persecution of Armenians has not abated in the Vilayet of Kharput.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 323.

Extracts from Private Letters from Kharput, dated February 17 and 22, 1896.

WHILE people are not now actually compelled to change their faith, and while officials affirm that there is complete religious liberty, there is such only in name.

The Christians are afraid of their Turkish neighbours, and are threatened as before.

They are told, "You professed to be Mahommedans, and we shall not allow you to trifle with us by opening your churches."

The Vali says, "Let the Christians resume their worship, and if they are interfered with, let them inform me."

But the taking of the initiative is just what they are afraid of.

I receive from all directions, especially from the distant villages, new proofs of the Mahommedan crusade. It is in some of the villages more severe since the beginning of Ramazan. Only last Tuesday (the 18th February), in one of the Palu villages, Hajar, the little Armenian church was torn down by the Turks of the place, and it is used as a privy. From two other villages in the Palu districts Christians who have professed Mahommedanism have come here in great fear. They have been told by their Turkish and Kurdish neighbours that, unless they keep the fast and give open proof of the sincerity of their profession, they will be treated as renegades, that is, put to death.

A man from a Christian village, who has taken refuge since the massacre in the Turkish village of Alishan, four hours from here, told me yesterday (21st February) that he and his family of twelve persons are now told that they must accept Islamism or leave the place.

In the Arabkir villages of the Eghin Caza the persecution is unremitting. The Armenians are told, "We know that your profession is a farce, but having made it you are renegades, and it is our duty to treat you as such."

A few days after the massacre a woman in the village of Grani went into the ruined church early in the morning to pray. As she came out she was killed by some Turks who had seen her go in.

The Turks listen at night at the various Christian houses to see whether they speak Armenian or Turkish, and as they have heard them praying in a Protestant family in that village (Grani) the members thereof feel that their lives are in danger.

This custom of listening at the windows at night is very common at those villages (Arabkir), and as the Armenians use their own language among themselves, the Turks are treating them with great severity on that account.

The priest of the village of Ancheerti, another Arabkir village, was killed a few days ago. I believe he had been circumcised by force, but it was known that he was still a Christian, and that was doubtless the occasion of his being killed.

No. 324.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 232.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54 of the 23rd January, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum giving further details of the massacre and pillage which took place in the Kharput district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 324.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th January, I have the honour to send herewith a more detailed and carefully prepared list of persons killed, &c., and of houses, &c., burnt and plundered in the Diocese of the Armenian Bishop of Kharput, which comprises that town and seventy-three villages, but does not include the districts of Malatia, Arabkir, Eghin, Tcharsandjak, in the Vilayet of Kharput.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 324.

STATISTICS collected by the Gregorian Episcopate of Kharput, comprising that town and seventy-three villages, showing the number of persons killed, &c., and houses pillaged, &c., during the disorders of 1895.

		No.
	Deaths—	
	Persons killed in fields and highways	280
	" burned to death	56
	" died from hunger and cold	1,014
	Suicides	23
	Bishop (Gregorian) killed	1
	Priests (") "	11
	Preachers (Protestant) killed	3
	Teachers killed	7
	Men, women, and children killed	1,903
	Miscarriages	829
1.	Total deaths	4,127
2.	Wounded	1,315
3.	Forced marriages to Turks	166
4.	Rapes	2,300
	Forced conversions, priests	12
	" " men and women	7,664
5.	Total conversions	7,676
6.	Houses plundered	6,029
	" burned	1,861
	Gregorian churches badly damaged	29
	" " burned	13
	Protestant chapels destroyed	5
	" " badly damaged	18
	Gregorian monasteries burned	2
	" " damaged	4
7.	Total edifices destroyed or damaged	1,934
8.	Estimated value of loss of property	1,500,000*l.*
9.	Destitute persons	26,990

No. 325.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 233.)

My Lord, *Pera, March* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship, No. 82, of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, inclosing a report from Mr. Hampson on the massacre at Chabakchur, in the Guendj district. Mr. Hampson

has since reported that the number of converts killed did not exceed twelve, and I have caused this to be brought to the notice of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 325.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting an attack on a village in the Caza of Guendj by Kurds, who killed fifteen Armenian families.

Mr. Hampson also stated that, whilst the Armenians imprisoned at Bitlis in connection with the disorders of last October have been released, others were being arrested at Mush on charges of sedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 325.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, March* 2, 1896.

I REGRET to report that there has been a fresh outbreak of fanaticism in the Chabakchur Caza of Guendj Sandjak, where Kurds have massacred fifteen families of Armenians. These families had been forcibly converted to Islam during the recent disorders; but, as I understand, orders having been received from Constantinople that such converts should be allowed to revert to their former faith, they had again professed Christianity, which fact led to the massacre. I have so far been unable to ascertain the exact number of the victims; but among them was Serkis Agha, the chief Armenian of that district, who was dragged out of the Government house and murdered before the eyes of the Kaïmakam. Soldiers arrived later from Guendj and restored order.

I have, on several occasions, called attention to the utter incapacity, or worse, of the Mutessarif of Guendj; and I hope that this further instance of lawlessness in his province may result in his removal.

I hear also that, in spite of the distress, taxes are being collected in Guendj with great cruelty; and we fear for the safety of the money sent by us for relief.

The news of the massacre caused considerable excitement and uneasiness in Mush, which has been increased by the activity of the authorities in trying to trace the murderers of the priest Parsegh (*vide* my despatch of the 9th October last), and consequent search of several Armenian houses. Two or three arrests have been made; but the Government seems, so far, to be acting with justice and discretion in this matter. The Armenians, however, fear that this may be the beginning of an inquisition and of the arrest of numerous persons who have been long declared by the authorities to be suspects; and their fears are strengthened by the arrest of three men at Kizil Agadj, a village near this town, who had fled to Russia five years ago accused of sedition, but had recently returned relying on the amnesty proclaimed last year. Last night, also, two prominent Armenians of this town were arrested.

As they certainly had nothing to do with the murder of the priest, it seems evident that the reason is general suspicions, especially as a member of the family fled more than a year ago, having been declared suspect.

It will be most regrettable should the authorities renew the excitement among the Mussulmans and the panic among the Armenians, by reviving old accusations of sedition at this moment without any fresh cause to do so.

I learn that the Armenians in Bitlis in prison in connection with the massacre of the 25th October have been released.

I have had the honour to telegraph the contents of the above despatch to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 326.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 234.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 79 of the 30th January, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul Acting at Erzeroum, commenting on the forcible conversion of Armenians at Balahor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 326.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 2nd ultimo, which only reached me on the 23rd, I have made inquiries in both Turkish and Armenian circles, here and at Baiburt, and I have not been able to obtain any confirmation of the alleged action of Saadeddin Pasha in connection with the case of the Balahor Armenians converted to Islamism.

Ibrahim Bey, Kaïmakam of Baiburt, did, however, visit Balahor, before Saadeddin Pasha's arrival, and found about seventy Armenians wearing white turbans and professing Islamism. He assured them that if they had merely done so from fear, as they told him they had, their conversion was not recognized by the Government, and he made them take off the turbans. The flag had been taken down from the Church.

Raouf Pasha, Vali of Erzeroum, has from the beginning discountenanced the comparatively slight religious crusade that took place last autumn in this vilayet, and any instructions His Majesty the Sultan may have sent not to recognize the conversions have been executed, though in a few places some villagers may possibly still be professing Mahommedanism through fear of their fanatical neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 327.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Pera, March* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of an article which appeared on the 20th March in the Turkish newspaper the "Saadet," reporting certain orders alleged to have been given to the Commander of the United States' Mediterranean squadron to arrest naturalized Americans suspected of revolutionary practices.

The United States' Chargé d'Affaires informs me that there is no foundation for such a statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 327.

Extract from the "Saadet" of March 20, 1896.

(Translation.)

THE United States' Legation has informed the Sublime Porte by "Takrir" that orders have been given to the Commander of the United States' fleet in the Mediterranean to arrest all evil-disposed persons who, originally Ottoman subjects, but having now adopted American citizenship, seek to enter the Ottoman dominions with arms and munitions of war.

This proof of friendship is a fresh witness to the good relations which have long existed between Turkey and the United States.

No. 328.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 236.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting on the state of the district, and transmitting a copy of the Manifesto issued by the Tashnak Society. I have caused the substance of this despatch to be communicated to the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 328.

Vice-Consul Williams to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Van, March* 4, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a translation of a Manifesto recently issued by the "Tashnak" revolutionary party, the original of which is in my possession. This Society numbers about 400 members in Van, and, together with the "Huntcheks," who probably do not number more than fifty, they terrorize over their countrymen, and, by their outrages and folly, excite the Mahommedan population and render nugatory all efforts to carry out reforms. I am firmly convinced that if they could be put down, or even kept quiet, one of the greatest obstacles to security in this district, as, probably, all over Anatolia, would be removed. I have pointed out to the Armenian Bishop here the danger of in any way alienating the sympathies of Europe, and that policy and duty should alike lead him to use all his influence to keep these "Anarchists" in check. Since our conversation, I understand that he has been doing his best, and as the bulk of the Armenian population entirely disapproves of these people, I have hopes for the future. The more I learn of the past events and present state of this province, the more clearly I see that the criminal actions of these Societies have been largely responsible for the terrible scenes enacted here and all over Anatolia during the last autumn, much as the Turks are to blame. It must be remembered that this and many other provinces of Anatolia are barely civilized. With a weak and corrupt Government and different religious creeds, of which one, and that the stronger, thought itself threatened with extinction, the wonder to me is, not that we have had these terrible massacres, but that they have not been still worse.

As regards this province, I think the outlook is decidedly better. Saadeddin Pasha, who somewhat frightened the Armenians when he first came, has informed me that he is sending five battalions into the districts to keep the Kurds in check. Half-a-battalion is to be posted at the head-quarters of each caza, a much more satisfactory arrangement than sending small bodies of men to isolated villages, where they get out of hand and rob and steal as much as the Kurds. I believe this to be an earnest endeavour to protect the villages.

I have been exerting myself during the last fortnight to smooth away a certain amount of friction which had arisen between the American missionaries and the authorities here as regards their method of carrying on relief work. The Inspector of

Reforms and the Vali both objected to the crowding in of villagers to Van. There are over 3,000 here, and more are on their way. I have arranged to send back all those who can safely go, and to stop relief work in the town except for the inhabitants and those who would be in danger if they went home. The balance of the money will then be distributed among the more necessitous villages in purchasing cattle, seeds, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. WILLIAMS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 328.

Circular issued by the Armenian Tashnak Central Committee, dated February 18, 1896.

(Translation.)

THE Sultan's Commission entered Van with the fire of cannon to carry out reforms. We with our eyes have seen that these reforms are sham, and that the results will be rivers of blood. People do not believe or trust to wolves. The people of Erzeroum* and Trebizond slapped in the face the reformer Shakir Pasha, but for you, O Van, the hour of your great temptation has come. Come to the conflict with honour. In disgrace send back the Imperial Commission. Do not yield to it or to any of its demands. All Turkish Armenia is in mourning. The Government has massacred the people and reduced them to dust. It has despised the Armenian people and caused them to be hungry, and starving, and wanderers. The author of all these troubles is that beast the Sultan. That cruel tyrant, without a conscience, preaches to us to become reconciled to him. In the face of this, when our Fatherland has become a sea of blood, the European diplomatists laugh us to scorn. We were prepared that they should be unfeeling but not so degraded. We have nothing to throw in the face of these unworthy diplomats except our deepest disgust and disrespect. Armenians, we are at our last hour. The criminal Sultan, with his numberless massacres and all his Government system, has fallen upon us like lead. Yes, we are decimated, we are sad, we are wounded, but we are not yet beaten—never!

There can be no reconciliation; we will not put down our arms. We have a holy war, and it will be continued with greater savageness. Therefore let the Commission of the tyrant go to hell. Let there be no yielding to it. We are revolutionists, and this is our last word.

Death or liberty!
Long live the Armenian people!
Long live the revolution!

No. 329.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord, *The Hague, March* 26, 1896.

COUNT ALDENBURG-BENTINCK, who was formerly in Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service, and is now the owner of considerable estates in this country and in Wurtemberg, where he is a member of the Upper House, returned here from Germany not long ago deeply impressed by the accounts he had received there from some Suabian missionaries long resident in Turkey, of the sufferings and misery of the Armenian population.

He was thus induced to start a subscription in favour of them in this country, in conjunction with the Dutch Evangelical Alliance, which has a very powerful organization, and, according to its lights, does a good deal in the cause of charity. The attempt, although supported by some of the most influential *pasteurs*, has utterly failed, and if I am to credit friends of mine who have taken an interest in it, mainly on account of the strong prejudice existing against the Armenians amongst the commercial classes which have had dealings with them in the East. The managing partner of Messrs. Hope, of Amsterdam, for instance, who is much given to good

* This is an allusion to the fact that the people of Erzeroum, at the instigation of their Bishop, did not go out to meet the Pasha, as is customary.

works, when asked to afford his support to the attempted movement, declined to have anything to do with it.

The Turkish Minister here, Hamid Bey, recently sent a "Communiqué" to the principal Dutch papers on the subject of this appeal of the Evangelical Alliance, protesting against the sweeping designation of "persecuted Christians" in Armenia to be found therein. Hamid Bey denies the correctness of such an assertion, and maintains that apart from "the bloody scenes provoked by the Orthodox Armenians at the instigation of the foreign Committees and missionaries," none of the Christians of other designations, "Syrians, Assyrians, Catholics, Armenians, and the rest," have had any cause to complain of Turkish rule. He likewise emphatically denies the truth of reports spread concerning compulsory conversions to Islamism.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 330.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 31, 1896, 11·50 A.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Jeddah telegraphs to me as follows:—

"During an official visit which the Vali has just paid me, his Excellency expressed in formal terms, on behalf of the Ottoman Government, his regret for the outrage of last May; he also stated that he was sorry he had been unable to effect the arrest of the culprits, and he promised to renew his efforts for their apprehension.

"After making a few observations respecting the outrage, I assured the Vali that I would not fail to report to your Excellency his expressions of regret, for which I tendered my best thanks."

No. 331.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 31, 1896, noon.*

MR. VICE-CONSUL CATONI telegraphs from Aleppo as follows:—

"Authorities have dispatched reinforcements of troops to Swedia.

"Vali states that certain Armenian revolutionaries are inciting the villagers to rise against the Government, and that the troops are sent solely to search for and to seize them.

"The whole district of Antioch is in a great state of panic; fear is felt that if troops begin to attack the Armenian villagers a general outbreak will ensue. In the opinion of Mr. Vice-Consul Douck, protection would be afforded to the whole district by the presence of a gun-boat at Swedia."

I beg to suggest that as I cannot communicate with the Admiral in cypher, he should be instructed from London.